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Duplicate Soft

The Records OF THE Borough of Northampton.

TWO VOLUMES,

Illustrated.

PREFACE BY

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON,

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER ON THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN BY

W. RYLAND D. ADKINS, B.A.,

*Late History Exhibitioner of Balliol College, Oxford,
Barrister-at-Law.*

THE FIRST VOLUME EDITED BY

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*Hon. Sec. Northamptonshire Architectural Society,
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THE SECOND VOLUME EDITED BY THE

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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CORPORATION
OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON.

1898.

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Charter of 1st Richard 1.

Count of the Souths

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PREFACE.

I COUNT it a high distinction to be permitted to associate myself, in any degree, with a work of such importance as the publication of the Records of the Borough of Northampton. At the time when that work was undertaken I was Bishop of the diocese in which Northampton lies, and was consulted in the initial stages. I then promised to write an historical introduction, but my removal from Peterborough has deprived me alike of the leisure and the appropriateness for such a task. I can only express my personal gratification at the result of much labour to set forth the history and development of a town which ranks high in historical importance, as Mr. Ryland Adkins, with a severe repression of undue patriotism, has abundantly shown.

The publication of municipal records has a twofold value. It gives a great stimulus to the accurate study of local history, and affords a strong incentive to that sentiment of civic duty on which our local self government must ultimately rest. At the same time it is of importance to all students of English institutions; for they can only be fully understood when a great mass of material has been collected in an available form. Every publication of records affords material for correcting old theories, and for framing new ones. It is from dry records that we shall be able in time to construct a picture of the actual life of our ancestors. It is with this daily life of the multitude that history is leaning to concern itself. The growth and working of social organisation are matters of primary importance, and can only be discovered by carefully

studying the records of municipal business. We can there see what men were trying to do, and we can estimate the success of the methods they employed.

To those resident in the neighbourhood of Northampton this book will be of great interest as being, in a very definite manner, their family archives. It is a memorial of the process by which their town acquired an organised life. English municipal institutions developed from below, and were not imposed from above. The right of self-government depended, and always must depend, upon the capacity to exercise it. Royal charters were a recognition of the fact that a borough could manage its affairs for itself better than they could be managed for it. This fact was proved by showing that it was profitable for all parties concerned. Self-government was not the result of any speculative system, but was the most economical way of conducting the business both of the locality and of the state. The charters granted to Northampton are so many indications of the growth of its burghers in shrewdness and in capacity for business.

If we would know what that business was, we have an account of remarkable detail in the "*Liber Custumarum*," which contains in a codified form the customs and regulations which had gradually grown up for the management of the town's affairs. It is noticeable that it took shape at a time when the restoration of order was of primary importance in England. This proves that during a period of weakness in the state local effort had grown stronger and more conscious of its power. The regulations contained in this book show how large a part of the administration of law in England had fallen into the hands of civic authorities. For instance, the provisions for regulating the market are not so much made for the purpose of facilitating trade in itself, but for maintaining order and preventing robbery in

the neighbourhood. It was this desire which animated the conclusions laid down in the debates held by the burghers on Sundays after service time in All Saints' Church. There was a persistent belief that all evils could be remedied by stricter enactments, and as soon as grievances arose an effort was made to redress them. Every trade had its own ordinances for maintaining that discipline, without which it did not hope to thrive. It is a characteristic of the Middle Ages that men adopted a high standard, and did not despair of attaining to it, however little support their hopes might derive from actual facts. Now-a-days we have a dread of interference, and shrink from making regulations which are not likely to be observed; our forefathers always set forth an ideal, which they knew to be impossible of attainment, but which, nevertheless, expressed the principles on which social life was founded. In these days of universal criticism it is pathetic to read the weighty reasons which are assigned for imposing a fine on those who railed against the mayor and burgesses. (I. 313.) The deepest consideration of the causes on which the well-being of states depends is necessary to justify an attempt to close the mouths of captious critics. In many matters which are treated in the "*Liber Custumarum*" we see how the evil practices of commercial life remain the same, though we may perhaps claim that they have been greatly lessened. But there runs through the ordinances on these points a spirit which is rare now-a-days, a desire to preserve the fair fame of the town as a whole. Commercial honesty was regarded as a valuable possession for the borough, in which all trades must stand or fall together.

The organisation of the civic Council in later days, and its mode of transacting business, are amply illustrated by the extracts made from its records by Dr. Cox. The change from an assembly of burgesses to a civic Corporation, made by the Act of Parliament passed in 1489, is a great epoch, and we would like to have more

definite information about the events which actually brought it about. There were, of course, many general political causes at work at that time. But there is one consideration which springs out of the matter itself. Business naturally falls into the hands of those who are most willing to do it. In a popular assembly power passes into the hands of committees of experts, who are generally left a free hand. But when there is a time of developed activity, outside criticism increases, and a multitude of tongues make themselves heard. The committee of experts regard this as a dangerous innovation, and think they are justified in taking away an obsolete right which is injuriously exercised for the purpose only of creating confusion. This is the view which is embodied in the preamble of this statute. (I. 101.) There is no conscious hypocrisy about it, but a desire to keep things as they were in the good old times.

I cannot undertake to compare in detail the borough of Northampton with other English boroughs, and point out its distinguishing peculiarities. This is a work for students of municipal institutions. But every English town had characteristics of its own, which were expressed in its history. It is this variety of actual practice which gives unfailing interest to local records. The practical temper of the English mind is shown in its power of silent adaptation of institutions to actual needs. Municipal history is not to be studied by a consideration of the logical development of constitutional ideas, but by a recognition that the mode of doing business was suggested by the nature of the business to be done. If this be so, it is obvious that the history of English towns cannot be written from one or two selected examples, which are taken as typical because their records are available for study. Each borough has its own contribution to make, for it had its own independent life. For this reason the records of every borough have an importance of their own. Their publication is not merely for the satisfaction of local patriotism, or the gratification of local antiquarians, but

is a substantive contribution to the history of that distinguishing quality of the English people, their capacity for managing their own affairs, quietly and reasonably, with a view solely to discover what is the fairest and wisest way of dealing with each question that arises. History consists, after all, in showing the working in any sphere of the qualities of the race.

M. LONDON.

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The Position of Northampton in English History.

BY

W. RYLAND D. ADKINS,

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Barrister-at-Law.

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THE POSITION OF NORTHAMPTON IN ENGLISH HISTORY.

THE town of Northampton, whose municipal life is described in these volumes, first becomes of importance in English history at the time of the Norman Conquest. Its position, on ground sloping gently to the south-west, and bounded on the west and south by the river Nene, which, flowing south from Naseby, is here joined by the Weedon water, and turns east to Peterborough, must have always been a strong and convenient one. But the Britons selected the brow of the hill to the south of Northampton, where an enclosure and fosse, miscalled Danes' Camp, has yielded in our day one of the richest collections of pre-Roman remains. The Roman, to whom the Nene valley was an important boundary when Britain was in process of being conquered, had most of his forts on the south of the valley, while avoiding Danes' Camp or Hunsbury Hill, and when the district was settled, chose as his chief abode the south-eastern slopes of Duston, to the west of modern Northampton, though slight remains of Roman-British times in the Castle area indicate an obscure community on the site which was afterwards so important. The Saxon undoubtedly had both a village and a fort where the Norman afterwards built, but before the Conquest the town has only antiquarian interest. It is probable that the Nene valley was a boundary between the Angle and Saxon in the centuries when they were settling England, and it is certain that the same line of country marks roughly the southern boundary of Danish permanent settlement, but neither the Angle nor Dane made a chief stronghold of this clearing between the forest and the river. Local antiquaries have differed much as to whether the Castle really existed in Saxon times, but the better opinion is that at "Hamtune" Edward the Elder in 922, after defeating the Danes, erected there one of the chain of forts with which he overawed the Danes who had settled and defended the heart of his kingdom against those who were to come, and that this was on the site of what was afterwards Northampton Castle, and that when in 1010 the Danes burned "Hamtune" it was a place of some size, straggling along the north bank of the river, and protected by its fort, but of no special political value. Thus it remained till the Norman came, when it was a town of

about 60 houses, having some churches, the number of which cannot now be ascertained, and, if a passage from Ingulphus is to be trusted, possessing in a rudimentary form a monastic settlement which was afterwards to become the famous Priory of St. Andrew. Its mint was closed, common as provincial mints were; it gave its name to no Earl; and its unimportance is marked by the fact that when in 1065 Harold met the insurgent Earls Edwin and Morcar here fresh from the displacement of Tostig in Northumberland, the conference agreed to was held not here, but at Oxford, and little, if any, attempt was made to hinder the Northern forces from ravaging the neighbourhood.

With the establishment of William's rule, Northampton emerges from obscurity into fame, and for two hundred and fifty years is constantly the scene of great events, and one of the principal centres of the kingdom. This it owed simply to its geographical position. As already said, it was naturally a good site for a fortified town, and the neighbouring forests, shrunk in modern times to the remote and narrow limits of Rockingham, Salcey, and Whittlebury, were for political and sporting reasons attractive to the Norman kings. Yet such advantages it shared with many places. What was its special value was its position—about half-way between Winchester (the national capital) and York (the capital of the North), and similarly half-way between the Welsh Marches and the East coast. A town so placed was invaluable to the Norman and Plantagenet Kings. The problem before them was to keep a firm grip on the whole kingdom, and to consolidate it into unity. Hence the old divisions of the country were of little concern to them. In Saxon times national unity only appears in rare and fitful gleams, when a strong monarch like Edward the Elder, Edgar, or Canute could obliterate provincial independence. Even so late as Edward the Confessor, the division of England into Northumbria, Mercia and Wessex was the really significant one, and the power of the crown was practically subordinate to it. Such a state of things it was natural for the Norman to fight against, and belonging to neither section, his impartial tyranny was untiringly devoted to weld England into one. For such a purpose it was essential to make his hold on the centre of the country as firm and as personal as possible. Northampton was chosen by one after another of the Plantagenet monarchs as a place of constant resort, whither it was easy to summon, and whence it was quick to

pursue the turbulent Welsh, the restless North, the intriguing Bigods of Norfolk, or the rebellious barons of the West.

The earliest and best proof of the new importance of the town is given in Domesday Book. From being a village of 60 houses under King Edward, it had risen to be a town of 330; of these no less than 100 belonged to the King, and 85 to his half brother, the Earl of Mutan, his niece, the Countess Judith, or his natural son, William Peverel, while houses belonging to the great barons are either few or conspicuous by their absence. The King's personal hold on the town and its growth could scarcely be more strikingly shown. And what appears from Domesday is borne out by William having given the Earldom of Northampton first to Waltheof, the son of the great Siward, and known to us alike by his prowess in arms and his vacillating weakness in statecraft, and then to Simon de St. Liz, endowing it, among other things, with the Countess Judith's local possessions, as well as with the hand of her daughter Maud. The first of these grants, that to the Northumbrian Earl, is characteristic of William's earlier policy of conciliation, while the second, to one of his own personal followers marks his later plan of relying on personal adherents rather than on men previously eminent in England and Normandy, and both show the importance he attached to the control of Northampton.

The marriage of Simon and Maud in 1084 commences the rule of the principal mediæval earls of Northampton, the St. Liz. The three Earls—father, son, and grandson—held the Earldom for just a century, and had a large share in developing the life of the town. The small priory of St. Andrew was enlarged, if not refounded, by the first Simon, and endowed with the patronage of the nine churches which Northampton in 1084 possessed. The church of the Holy Sepulchre was founded by the same man, and he built in Norman fashion the Castle on the site of the old Saxon fort, and surrounded the growing town with a wall. These works occupied much of the time when Rufus was King, and the second St. Liz continued his father's type of energy by founding the Abbey of Delapré in the meadows south of the town, and by re-building the church of St. Peter in a style which stands to our own day. Besides these facts, there is nothing to record till the solitary surviving Pipe Roll of Henry 1st, that of 1131, tells us that the farm rent of Northampton to the crown was £100, whereas in Domesday it had been only £30. In the same year, too, was

held at Northampton the first of the councils which became so frequent there afterwards.

Here the old and wearied king, who was familiar with Northampton as the scene of a conference with his brother Robert, in 1106, and the place where he spent Easter in 1121-22, called the baronage together to swear fealty on the high altar of All Saints' church to his daughter, the Empress Maude. By a curious coincidence it was here that Stephen called his first council in 1136 or 1138 to receive the allegiance of the men previously sworn to his cousin, and St. Liz was throughout his reign one of the unvarying supporters of the king. Stephen held his court here in 1144.

With the reign of Henry II. more details come to light of the position and importance of Northampton. The Pipe Rolls, which have been preserved continuously from the second year of his reign, tell us that the farm rent of the town when he came to the throne was the hundred pounds it had been in his grandfather's time, rising in 1184 to the one-hundred-and-twenty pounds at which it stood for three hundred years. The king's constant visits to Northampton mark his sense of its central and strategic position. He was here in fifteen different years of his reign, a fact which in view of his frequent absence in France, once for four years at a time, indicates an almost annual visit when in England. Here resided his third son, Geoffrey, for a year in 1170-71, when the king and the rest of the court were in Anjou. In 1157 a council was held at Northampton, chiefly on ecclesiastical affairs, and after a fruitless attempt at settlement between Becket and the king at Northampton in 1163, the great council of the following year saw, perhaps, the most dramatic of the historic scenes which happened here, when Becket, condemned by the king and council for his refusal to accept the constitutions of Clarendon and surrender clerical privileges to the common level of citizenship, appealed to the pope, and fled by night from the populace who adored him, and from the monarch and barons who meant his submission or destruction. Sympathy may well be divided between the great churchman, free from vulgar selfishness, and yet struggling for class pretensions which were ruinous to the state, and the wise though brutal king, whose violent and oppressive temper cannot disguise the justice and statesmanship of his administrative methods. The incident is one made familiar by the prose of Froude and the poetry of Tennyson. Its significance for one sketching the

history of the town where it happened lies in the indication it gives of the consequence of the place where the priory of St. Andrew led the burgesses in enthusiastic support of the archbishop, and the strength of the fortress chosen by the king as the spot suitable to bring to a head his vital conflict with Becket.

In the rebellion of 1173-74, in which the younger Henry had the assistance of some of the greatest barons in his attempt to seize his father's throne, Northampton stood for the old king. Here he paid a flying visit of four days in the autumn of 1173, and the Earl of Northampton, the last of the St. Liz, besieged Huntingdon along side De Lacy, the justiciar in the same interest. The constable of Leicester, acting for the Earl, one of the rebels, and then a prisoner in Normandy, defeated the king's burgesses of Northampton early the next year, and later in the summer Northampton was the place at which the king received the submission of the defeated barons.

It was at this date that Northampton castle became royal property. Why St. Liz, then in favour, relinquished it ten years before his death is now beyond ascertainment, but since he then obtained Huntingdon, and was known afterwards as the Earl of Huntingdon, it is possible that there was practically a surrender of the castle, if not of the Earldom, in exchange for that of Huntingdon.

The next council held here two years later had no local bearings, but is memorable as that at which the whole country was for the first time divided into circuits for the annual visits of judges, a tentative plan of the circuits having been successful a year before. Again the next year a great council was held in the town, the last held there in the reign, which marks the end of the rebellion by the restoration of the Earls of Leicester and Chester to their honours. Henceforward Henry had quiet in England.

The important year, however, of this reign for the history of the borough is 1184. In that year died Simon, the last of the St. Liz Earls of Northampton, and the shrewd burgesses seized the chance to buy from the king the right of holding the town of him *in capite*.

This is the true beginning of municipal life. Freed by this means from dependence on the sheriff, and so made separate from the county, no longer having a local earl to overawe them, the

burgesses of Northampton had the king and the king only to deal with, and were launched on the stream of local independence, which naturally led to their gaining five years later from Richard I. their earliest charter by which they could choose their own reeve, and be free as tenants on the royal domain from tolls and exactions throughout the kingdom.

And this local independence was made much easier by the absence of any powerful baron in their immediate neighbourhood. Either in 1174, or at Earl Simon's death, the crown acquired those large estates in Northamptonshire which the Conqueror had given to his niece Judith. These, together with previous royal property, and especially the three great forests already referred to, made the crown practically the sole large landowner in Northamptonshire at this time, and Northampton gained thereby. The forests, as is now well known, were not only preserved for hunting, but being outside the ordinary law formed *imperia in imperio* of which the Angevin kings were jealous guardians, none more so than Henry II. He was at Northampton in 1175, holding a circuit to enquire into encroachments on his forests in the county during the late rebellion, and his vigilance doubtless prevented any new estates being carved out of Whittlebury or Rockingham. In this reign, too, the residential attraction of the neighbourhood of Northampton for the sovereign is most marked. Beside the castle of Rockingham, which he cared for less than did his grandfather, or Rufus, Henry had a palace of importance at Geddington, fifteen miles from Northampton, in the heart of the forest, and there held a great council in 1188, besides paying many less important visits. He had, too, a hunting lodge further north at King's Cliffe, and one at Silverstone, thirteen miles south of Northampton, in Whittlebury forest, both of which are known to have seen him not infrequently.

The effect of the royal residences in the vicinity was naturally to lead to royalty and great officials passing through the town, to bring the town into close relation with king and court, while making it more independent of lesser dignities, and so to give it that character of a privileged and favoured town on the royal domain, which gives the key to its municipal growth during the succeeding reigns.

In that of Richard I., we meet for the first time with detailed notice of the local mint which is referred to in the Pipe Roll of

1160, the inspector thereof paying a fine to the exchequer to be quit of his office in 1198, and Richard spent Easter of 1194 here, attended at his council by William, the Scotch king. The value of the castle, too, is shown very early in the reign, when one of the terms of settlement of the dispute between John and the chancellor is the commitment of the castle to Simon de Pattesball who engaged if the king died without issue to deliver it up to John.

Still more striking is the selection of Northampton for the meeting of notables at the death of Richard, to swear fealty to John, then in Normandy, and to impose conditions of their loyalty upon their new king.

John, indeed, all through his reign had much to do with Northampton. In his first year he issued to the town a charter confirming that of Richard, and adding new privileges, such as the election of four coroners, and the bailiffs. A year or two later the mint is again mentioned, and the king not only visited the town in fourteen out of the seventeen years of his reign, and in one year as many as four times, thirty-one visits in all, but removed the exchequer thither from London in 1209 for six months. In 1212 he held here the council where he met the Nuncios, Pandulph and Durand, and failing to satisfy them was excommunicated. To a king situated as was John in the midst of disaffection, the castle of Northampton was invaluable. Orders for its repair and maintenance appear in the rolls for 1205 and 1213, and particulars of the change of its castellan in 1215. When the civil war broke out Fitz Walter and the army of God and the Holy Church beseiged it in vain for fourteen days, and after the granting of Magna Carta it was one of four castles given to the barons as security for the performance of the charter. It reverted to the King's power on the turn of the tide a year later, and was held for him by Fulk de Breauté at the close of his reign.

Meanwhile the town itself was growing in population and independence. In 1202 the Monks of St. Andrew's were at variance with their vicars, the clergy of the town churches, because the latter had opened additional churches (practically chapels of ease) without their patrons' leave. The dispute was referred to Rome, and the Pope decided against the vicars. Thus is seen the growth of the town, which needed more churches and that divergence of feeling between the secular and regular clergy which marked the rise of independent life in a mediæval town. And as the

town had withstood the Priory, so it dared to quarrel with the Castle. In 1216, provoked doubtless by the devastation civil war was working in Northampton, the townsmen rose on the King's garrison, and killed many, only to suffer the penalty of having a large part of the town burned over their heads.

These are apparently passing incidents, but they show us how, at the death of John, Northampton was no longer a collection of dwellings clustered round castle or abbeys. These were still here, and more powerful than ever, but alongside the forces of Church and King were beginning the energies of the citizens, choosing their own chief magistrates, anxious after their own welfare, and building up steadily the edifice of municipal life.

These energies were destined to increase greatly throughout the long reign of John's irresolute son. At the beginning, no doubt, Northampton suffered for the time, as records speak of waste houses within its walls. But its character as a Royal town, resorted to by the Court for festival and council, soon restored its prosperity. The 1200 marks exacted by way of aid from the town in 1227 speaks well of its reputed wealth. Before this, the capture of Bedford Castle by the King (1224) had seen the end of the turbulent career of Fulk de Breauté, who might indeed entertain the King at Northampton, as he did in 1218, but who was bent on quasi-independent rule, and who is the last of the sheriffs in our history to show the continuous turbulence of an earlier age. Henry, who had in 1218 issued letters patent regulating the fairs of Northampton, and in 1224 granted to the burgesses tolls on things entering the town for three years in aid of enclosing and fortifying the town, signalised his full assumption of kingly power in 1227 by confirming his father's charter on the usual terms of a handsome payment for the confirmation. In 1252 came fresh letters patent, granting tolls for enclosing the town, and addressed this time not to the sheriff, but to the mayor and burgesses, the reeve being known as the mayor as early as Richard I.'s time, when a witness to conveyances. In 1255 a charter gives the burgesses relief from arrest for debt, with certain limitations. In 1257 a similar document gives many additional privileges, notably that of returning the King's writs themselves, and not through the sheriff, and freeing the town from the right of the sheriff to make distress in the borough.

This brings the municipal history to the beginning of the

Barons' war, and the town had been prospering steadily. The religious temper of the King had been shown by his removing in 1236 the old town fair from All Saints' churchyard, where it had been held from before the Conquest, and in 1246 he had given a library and sacramental plate to All Saints', and smaller vessels of silver to the other parish churches. More important is the flight of the Oxford students here from 1230 to 1258, joined by Cambridge students in 1258, and the consequent founding of a University under Royal sanction, which numbered thousands of scholars, and only perished by the pressure which Oxford as a Royalist centre put upon the King in 1262 to close the new rival. For by this time the Barons' war had broken out, and at Northampton the townsmen, especially the students, were on the side of the Barons. The Castle was held by the younger De Montford in 1264, and the capture of the town by Henry and Prince Edward, through the convenient assistance of the Monks of St. Andrew's, who surreptitiously admitted them, was the first Royalist success of the war. In the next year the great Earl Simon re-captured it, only to lose it to the King later in the year, and it was here in December, 1265, that the King summoned his array to meet and drive the Barons from Kenilworth. The campaign thus opened, closed with the victory at Evesham, and Northampton was the place chosen for the council held in 1266 to inflict penalties on the vanquished, and restore order to the country. In 1268, at Midsummer, it was here that Edward and many other knights assumed the cross before starting on the crusade, in the presence of the King and Queen and of his wife, the heroic Eleanor of Castille.

Although the town's baronial leanings may have had a little to do with its losing its University, it otherwise continued in court favour after the war. Its charters were confirmed in 1268, when the burgesses received a general pardon for their share in the rebellion, and letters patent in 1278 gave them the prized benefit of keeping dogs in town and suburbs without expediting or lawing them, an inroad upon the rigorous forestial regulations in their favour, which shows, as social privileges always do show, more than greater things, the prosperity of those receiving them.

The new reign of Edward I. was marked as regards Northampton by a Royal Inquisition, the results of which are recorded in the Hundred Roll. From this it appears that in spite of the wars the town had increased so much as to encroach on the open space which

in a mediæval town was always left between the houses and the walls, and the business-like habits of the burgesses was shown by the account they presented to the King's commissioners of money due to them from the crown for various entertainings of Royal officers and transmission of Royal property. If the town obtained all it claimed, some £876, they had the best of the commissioners. The next incidents of Northampton's greatness are sinister. Here, in 1277, 300 Jews were executed for clipping the King's coin, doubtless because it was a central place to which to bring malefactors, the Castle having had a special gaol in it for the last generation. Here in 1284, when David, the last of the Welsh princes, was captured and executed, one of his quarters was given to Northampton to be shown on the gate, thus indicating it as one of the most notable towns in England. The same idea is shown in Northampton being chosen in 1283-4 as the place of a Parliament for the counties south of Trent.

It was, indeed, in Edwardian times that the town was at its zenith. An extensive grant of tolls for re-building the walls in 1301 indicates the then enlargement of the town to include within the circuit of its defence the large church of St. Giles, and much orchard and farm land, making an area which was not built upon until within living memory. Then was it that the new Town Hall was built on the edge of the Chequer (the Market square), opposite the churchyard of All Saints, while the centre of the town, geographically and commercially, was shifted eastward, to the said Town Hall and square. In 1299 Edward I., who visited the town at intervals, gave a confirmatory charter, specially emphasizing the right of choosing a mayor and two bailiffs, and Edward II., though adding no charter, held Parliaments here in 1307 and 1317, to which Northampton sent—as, indeed, it did to the first true Parliament, that of 1295—its own representatives. In the requisition for the Scotch war in 1322 Northampton sent 40 men for 40 days at its own expense to meet the King at Newcastle, a larger number than any town save Winchester, which sent 50, and one which contrasts with the 20 sent by Cambridge and Canterbury, the 26 of Exeter, the 25 of Oxford, the 10 of Bedford, and Leicester's 12.

It was here that young King Edward III. held, in 1328, the famous Parliament which confirmed the Scotch treaty, and yielded back the records brought by his grandfather from Scotland, an assembly which has still better title to remembrance from passing the 1st statute of Northampton, which strengthened the processes

of justice, confirmed the Great and Forest Charters, and checked, though only temporarily, the monopoly of the staple. At this time we hear in detail of Queen Isabella staying at the Priory of St. Andrew, of the formalities attaching to the custody of the great seal, and of the absence of the armed men, who had been too used to overcome the deliberation of councils. A little earlier than this an act (17 Edward II.) forbidding tournaments had allowed that one more should be held at Northampton, and a little later than this we note that farm rent of Northampton was assigned a part of the support of the Queen Isabella in her melancholy captivity at Castle Rising.

Besides its connection with the court—other parliaments being held here by Edward III. in 1331 and 1338—Northampton showed increasingly as a centre of ecclesiastical forces. As early as 1290 the friars in the town were of enough consequence to be entertained for three days successively by King Edward I., who was then residing here, and the period now described saw the settlement of all four orders of Friars—the Grey, the White, the Black, and the Austin—within the town of Northampton. Only eleven towns possessed settlements of all four orders at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries.

With boundaries enlarged, and benefiting by the wider liberties of each charter, and by the town's position as a political and religious centre, the burgesses of Northampton naturally developed pretensions to enforce their authority on the surrounding country. In 1330 a presentment was made against the Bailiffs of the town for taking unlawful tolls in a manner which to modern notions seem curiously impudent. The town was empowered to take toll of persons passing through it with carts and merchandise, and in order to prevent anyone evading payment by going round, stationed the toll houses miles outside on the principal roads. In this case the town had one at Slipton, 17 miles away towards Peterborough, and the result here was to limit the bailiffs to taking toll only of those coming to Northampton, not of those who might be passing through Slipton to Leicester, or Rothwell, or elsewhere. Only a town of strength and influence would dare to put a toll house so far afield.

At home the civic life progressed apace. The ordinance of 1311 made Northampton one of the towns of the Statute Merchant, and the mayor accordingly had the power of witnessing by a special seal the pledges of debtors, and by the time of Edward III., the

town had had its common seal for a century, and had a mayoral seal as well. The community was organised as the mayor, twelve burgesses (probably ex-mayors), and commonalty, and it met in the church of St. Giles, partly because of its size, partly because of its convenient distance at the opposite end of the town from the Castle and the Castle influences.

If the Barons' war had seen Northampton Castle at its strongest, and the fifteenth century was to see Northampton reach its goal in a charter of incorporation, and the full privileges of justices and a recorder, it was, as been said, under the Edwards that the town, looked at on all sides of its life, played the largest figure in English history. A thoughtful burgess of the time might well think that his town was destined to be permanently one of the capitals of the country. It had municipal privileges shared by few; it boasted of a royal Castle, and had had three parliaments held there in twelve years. A little later one of the royal heralds took his title from Northampton. The great religious orders chose it for their head quarters, of the trade in wool it had its full share, and a seal of a great interest bearing the head of Edward I., is one of a cloth subsidy, denoting that Northampton manufactured cloth for export and that the duty had been paid thereon.

Yet this apparently secure prosperity was but the prelude to a long and steady decline. Already in Edward III.'s time the Castle which had made the town was wearing towards decay. It had suffered in the Barons' wars. Edward I., who was always fighting his enemies in their countries not his own, and who at one time did not come near Northampton for ten years, was little concerned to spend money upon it, and when the fears and necessities of his successor led him to look to the defences of even his central towns, a survey was made (1323) of the castle of Northampton, and it was found to be in great decay. The great hall, its principal chambers, and the lower chapel had been destroyed by fire, six new turrets had been destroyed by the castellan himself in 1307, the barbican was ruinous, and the estimated outlay needed to fully restore it would, according to Mr. Hartshorne's calculation from original documents, have exceeded £2000. It is even possible that a royal inquisition into its affairs four years later, which decided that it was in the custody of the sheriff of the county, may refer to an attempt of the town to get control of the decaying but still threatening fortress.

And while its military strength was impaired, Northampton was about to lose its political importance. The eighth parliament held here in Edward III.'s reign, that of 1338, was called to sanction and assist the impending war with France, and ere it met Edward was already abroad. With this outbreak of what is well known as the Hundred Year' war, the centre of political grants change from home to foreign politics. No longer is the main problem to manage England from somewhere near its centre, the whole energies of the country were at death grips with France.

No doubt there had been continental fighting under the Norman and early Plantagenets, but their home politics were of equal urgency, and called them again and again to Northampton, while under Edward III. and his successors foreign affairs were everything, and the supplies desired could be better obtained from parliament called to the capital than from assemblies called to a spot so remote from the coast as Northampton. Accordingly, from the time of Crecy, no parliament meets here save one in Richard II.'s reign, when there was peace between England and France, and for the still more conclusive reason of pre-occupation elsewhere, the monarchs discontinued their visits either to the town itself or their forestial seats in the immediate neighbourhood.

Its consequence had depended on its geographical position, and the importance of that having passed away it inevitably went down hill.

But though the sources of its greatness were thus drying up, the decline was in no way rapid. The great religious houses which had just come had come to stay. The municipality was in its lusty youth, was growing in strength and privileges, and became of more prominence in the absence of king and court. In 1335 the town had been granted tolls for rebuilding the south bridge, and three years later received a charter entitling it to hold that profitable institution for a mediæval borough, a fair, for the adequate period of four weeks in every year. This may have been an answer to the petition to the Parliameut of 1335 for a reduction of the fee farm rent. Fifteen years later the King assigned his share of this tax to the Canons of Windsor, to whom the town thenceforward paid it, until under recent legislation it was paid instead to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, as it is to the present day.

The reign of Richard II. brought with it a new charter (1385) which confirmed the old ones, and ordered the mayor and bailiffs to hear all pleas of assize and other pleas whatsoever happening within the liberties of Northampton, allowed them to keep the assize of bread, wine, and beer, and weights and measures, and to take cognizance of forestallers and regraters. This was of high consequence as giving to the town almost legislative authority over trade matters, and is the basis of the elaborate trade regulations of which the customary of the town is full.

Five years previously to this, the last parliament held at Northampton had met (1380). It is memorable in our history as having imposed the poll-tax which led to the insurrection of Wat Tyler, and the one vivid appearance of the peasantry in the politics of mediæval England. The local features were the use of All Saints' Church and the Priory of St. James for the meeting of the Parliament, and the fact of the King being lodged outside the town at Moulton, doubtless because the decay of the castle made it unfitting to receive him.

It was about this time, in 1393, that the first mention of Lollardy in Northampton occurs, when one Richard Stormeworth, afterwards M.P. for the borough, complained to the King in council that the mayor was harbouring a Lollard, and encouraging the Lollards to preach in defiance of the Bishop of Lincoln. The incident deserves recording, not only for its own sake, but as the earliest mention of that temper in religion and politics which has been, perhaps, the dominant one in Northampton in later centuries.

With the accession of the House of Lancaster, the history of Northampton becomes almost solely municipal. Henry IV., immediately on his accession, issued to the town letters patent authorising tolls for repairing the wall, but not till the reign of his grandson is there any further mention of Northampton in royal or parliamentary acts. We are justified in thinking that the town had shared in the tendency of towns generally in the fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries to increase in wealth and the acquisition of property. Letters patent of Henry VI. in 1331 containing an act of parliament for the paving of Northampton mention the principal streets of the town as enlarged in 1300. These letters patent were followed in 1435 by other letters confirming previous charters and again in 1445 by a fresh charter giving the important

additional privileges of the mayor being appointed King's escheator, and leave being given to the mayor and commonalty to purchase real property of the value of £40 a year in spite of the statute of mortmain. These privileges were re-conferred in 1452, and in 1459 the town was incorporated, and the mayor for the time being appointed a magistrate, the incorporation being rather a solemn assurance of previous privileges than the conferring of new ones. Thus by the end of Henry VI.'s reign Northampton had obtained practically full municipal powers. The wars of the Roses made little difference to its civic career although the town was the scene of the first decisive battle of the war when on July 10th, 1459, the Earls of March and Warwick, with the support of the townsmen, overthrew the Lancastrians and captured the King. Local historians speak of Henry watching the battle from the hill of the Headless Cross, that structure being one of the Eleanor Crosses erected by Edward I. wherever his wife's body stayed on the way from Harby to Westminster, and one which still stands as a monument not only of conjugal affection and high mediæval art, but as a relic reminding Northampton people of the period when the town was still one of the chief towns of the kingdom.

Edward IV., who had the support of the town throughout his career, issued letters of pardon to Northampton in 1462, for offences committed in the war, and in the same year confirmed the ancient charters, while sixteen years later further letters patent allowed the mayors in future to be sworn in the town, instead of proceeding to London.

Up to this time the mayor and bailiffs were chosen by the commonalty, *i.e.*, by the town at large, and having regard to this, and to the privileges now freshly given by Henry VI. and Edward IV., this may be regarded as the culmination of the municipal life of the town. Its prominence as a royal town came to a head under Henry III., the general prominence royal and municipal in the Edwardian period, and its municipal power and character now. It shared to the full the tendency of the fifteenth century to develop municipal powers, and take an intense interest alike in the collection of ancient customs, and the extension of present rights. It is at this period that the Customary which occupies a good deal of this volume, was compiled, and that shows more clearly than would many pages of comment the elaborate character of the

town's civic life. It shows, among other things, that the custom of taking tolls at stations far outside the walls, mentioned already as giving rise to a royal enquiry in 1330, still continued, and the town secured the tolls of travellers as far away as Syresham, fourteen miles south, and Slipton, seventeen miles east. It points out how carefully the privileges of the town had been used to give the town full legislative powers in all domestic matters, and how thoroughly the town, in true mediæval spirit, looked on the surrounding country as almost foreign territory, to be traded with no doubt, but to be dominated in every possible way to the advantage of the burgesses. The legal notes which Mr. Green has appended to the Customary, show the existence of customs which it is reasonable to refer to a period earlier than the first charter, and it is arguable that the continuance of the "*droit de retraite*," for instance, long after it became a fetter instead of a privilege, may point not only to the early prosperity of the town, but to its decreasing importance in the later times when acts of parliament gave freedom of alienation generally.

For the most singular feature of Northampton life in this fifteenth century is the steady decline of its material fortunes alongside the greater elaboration of its municipal constitutions. In 1462, at the very time when new powers are given to the corporation, twenty pounds of the fee farm rent is remitted for twenty years, and though no reason is given for this in the letters patent, it is impossible not to assign it to the circumstances specially mentioned in a similar grant a few years later, of the decay of the town. The truth is that while the town was still of enough consequence to share and feel the municipal growth, which is one of the main characteristics of this century in England, it did not also share the prosperity of so many towns which marked the age. This, again, was due to its geographical position. It was not in the position of Norwich or the Cinque Ports, or Bristol, to take advantage of that economic revolution of the century which saw England turn from an exporter of raw material to that of manufactured products. It had had at an early period, as has been already seen, a seal indicating it exported cloth, but it was the towns on or near the sea coast which reaped the full advantage of the economic change, and a central, inland town like Northampton was certain to sink more and more into the background. This is curiously borne

out by the act of Parliament of Henry VIII., referring to several decayed towns, including Northampton, all of which, save one are inland.

The first of these remissions of taxation was, as has been said, under Edward IV.; the final one was in letters patent of Henry VIII., in 1514, which remitted twenty-two pounds of the one hundred and twenty for ever. In the interval between these dates other important matters had happened to the town. An Act of Parliament in 1489 had destroyed the old democratic constitution of the assembly, and placed the government of the town in the hands of the mayor, ex-mayors, bailiffs and ex-bailiffs, and forty-eight of the burgesses, chosen in the first instance by the mayor and ex-mayors, and subsequently kept up in numbers by co-optation. This constitution continued until the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835, and from 1480 till 1660 the same oligarchy chose the members of Parliament. The excuse for this strong proceeding was the previous existence of tumults in Northampton and in Leicester, to which a similar provision applied, and it is true that Henry VII. was none too well affected to the towns which had welcomed Richard III.'s democratic policy, but the true cause probably lay quite as much in the shrunken size and weakened energies of the commonalty and the tenacious hold of the leading citizens on corporation patronage and property.

Six years later a charter from the King gave the new corporation the right to chose a recorder and two justices of the peace, with various privileges attaching to them, and with this charter ends the story of the growth of municipal powers in the borough.

Curiously enough, it is from just after this time that the Book of Assembly remains extant, and in the second of these volumes Dr. Cox has illustrated in much detail the civic life of the town for the rest of its existence.

It therefore ceases to be needful in this introduction to say much of the general history of the town from this point onward, especially as the place of Northampton in English history is a much less important one from the beginning of the Tudor period.

Leland gives a picturesque account (1533) of it, noting that the older houses were of stone, and the newer of wood, and by this time it was sinking rapidly to the level of an ordinary county town.

Towards the end of the reign of Elizabeth a new charter, which enlarged its privileges of the town, and specified several

fresh fairs, perhaps marks a rise in prosperity. The tendency appears at this time, and continues through the seventeenth century, to choose as the recorder of the town some neighbouring great lord or dignitary, whose actual work would, of course, be done by a deputy; and the custom is interesting as showing the new relation between the town and the county. It was during the sixteenth century that Northamptonshire became the home of great families and the county of famous houses. The large royal possessions in the forests of the county furnished estates for the new nobility who owed their origin to Crown favour in Tudor times, and by the end of this century the large landowners of the county were the dominating influence, and the county town came more and more to think of itself—if the expression may be used—as the market town for the large graziers, the centre of county government, and the capital in every sense of the county, rather than as the separate powerful little commonwealth of one hundred and fifty years before. A careful survey of the parliamentary elections in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and of the list of recorders, shows that the town was quick to seek the help and patronage of the neighbouring magnates, in important matters. Even in the famous spendthrift election of 1768, when the town, as will be seen directly, had the wide household suffrage, the contest was one between the three great local noblemen—Lord Northampton, Lord Halifax, and Lord Spencer—a striking instance of "county" influence. The same point is illustrated in the offer of the corporation in 1678, when the County Hall was to be built, to subscribe to it on condition it was to be erected in the town, this being the exact opposite of the policy of mediæval Northampton in getting rid of the control and influence of the sheriff wherever possible.

This relation of the town to the county is the leading characteristic to note in the history of the town from late Tudor to Georgian times. Naturally the town during that period calls for less notice than in the earlier period. It suffices to mention that Henry VIII. visited the town once, that Elizabeth was here three times, and that the purchase by James I. of Holdenby House brought him through the town frequently for some years.

The chief marks of the town's history, apart from its new relation to the county already touched on, and its purely municipal life, which Dr. Cox illustrates so fully, were religion and trade. Northampton, as has been already noted, early showed sympathy

with Lollardism, and in Elizabeth's reign it is distinguished for being the town where Puritan and Genevan influence inside the Church of England reached their greatest development. Early in Elizabeth's reign the town had come to have the patronage of the large church of All Saints', and this took the place of St. Giles' as the Corporation church, so that the vigorous Puritanism of its vicar had the greatest significance, and was, we know, supported by the governing body of the town. This temper continued down to the Civil War, and the reader of the second volume of these records will find interesting proof of the rigorous and careful government of the town by its Puritan assembly during the war. Northampton was garrisoned for the Parliament under the leadership of Lord Brooks, and maintained a position of importance in the struggle from the first gathering of Parliamentary troops there under Essex at the beginning of the war, to the final battle of Naseby, but twelve miles away, in 1645. It was naturally one of the towns whose walls were ordered to be destroyed by the first Parliament of Charles II., and by a curious and almost unexpected result of the Restoration the town then regained its wide Parliamentary suffrage. This, as has been noted, had been exercised by the oligarchical assembly since Henry VII's Act of Parliament, but at the Restoration, the householders met in the square and returned two members, while the assembly did the same at the Town Hall. The latter were sure to be Puritans, and the former in sympathy with the restoration, the strictness of the Puritan rule in Northampton having, no doubt, bred unpopularity, and the Cavalier Parliament deciding as was natural in favour of its own side, by this accident restored to the town its ancient democratic franchise, a franchise which after several disputes, was from 1740 to the Reform Bill acted on without question.

These changes come out of the religious disputes at Northampton; the other important aspect of the town in this period was its trade. Although not appearing very early in its history there is reason to believe that its tanners, if not its shoemakers constituted an important trade at the time of the Customary. The latter, however, first show, with something like general prominence, when 2000 pairs of shoes were ordered for the army of Charles I. in the Irish rebellion of 1640.

A little later the parliamentary army was largely shod from Northampton, and after this time the town was a recognised

centre of the boot and shoe industry. In the eighteenth century also, it was a depôt of some consequence in the lace trade, the district round, particularly in South Northamptonshire, being largely occupied in hand-made lace making.

But though the principal market as well as the county town, and although a centre both of shoe making and lace selling, Northampton was in this century at the lowest ebb of its fortunes.

The castle, which had lingered on till the Restoration as a jail, and a place where the court of quarter sessions met, had been sold in 1678 to a private individual, and was now but a heap of dwindling ruins used as a quarry by the neighbours. There were but four churches in place of the nine of the Norman period, and the great fire of 1678 which destroyed a part of the town burnt the old church of All Saints, re-built only in shorn proportions. The corporation property, which had been considerable in earlier periods, was wastefully managed, and became considerably impaired in this century, while at some time about this period the important suburbs of Cotton End and St. James' End, which had been under the government of the town, reverted to the county, with whom they still remain.

Yet the political and religious activity of the town retained some vigour. The spendthrift election already alluded to showed the keenness as well as the corruption of the town electors. In the nobler sphere of religious activity the Dissenters of Northampton were conspicuous, and the successive presence here in Northampton of Doddridge and the Rylands, with the prominent part they took in the revival of Evangelicalism made the town prominent among people of that school of thought to the extent of its sharing with Leicester the position of a sort of capital of Dissent in the Midlands during the latter half of the century.

Of the town in the present century only one sentence need be said. The great development of the shoe trade has made Northampton again a place of consequence, and has stimulated its civic life entirely apart from its position as the chief town of the county. If the local boast be true that there is a greater percentage of the inhabitants owners of their own dwellings than in any other English town, it tells of a sound economic basis of municipal prosperity. The use of machine lace has taken from Northampton its old consequence as a centre of the lace trade, and its markets and fairs, though still flourishing, are, except that

of cattle, scarcely so great in proportion as they were. On the other hand, in the trade of brewing it has an industry which does more than supply local demands. Its vigour of political life has been shown by the choice of members of parliament, now of this party, now of that, who have been, on the whole, above the average in individuality of character, and the town itself grows larger at an ever increasing rate. Northampton is to-day high up in the second rank of manufacturing towns, and shows also the usual type of county metropolis. The small Saxon settlement, the great Norman fortress, the royal town of the Plantagenets, the vigorous municipal commonwealth, the stronghold of Puritanism, the quiet county capital, the growing trade centre, all these successive phases lie behind, and go to make what Northampton is to-day. The records of the municipality are therefore of special historic interest, and show in these volumes a rich variety of material. To provide a string of narrative on which readers can thread such of the facts and incidents as they wish to remember has been the object of this introduction, and to those, at any rate, who are connected with the town of Northampton by birth or residence, by interest or sentiment, the details of its past life may be perhaps the more interesting from the reminder which is here given of the high national importance of the town in early times, and of its varying characteristics at different periods of its history.

Domesday Book.

THE first official notice of Northampton, as of other towns and counties in England, commences with that wonderful compilation made by William the Conqueror in or about the year 1086. Thus, although scattered notices of the town and county will be found in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and other contemporary records, it has been thought well to begin this volume with a reproduction of the portions of the Domesday Book relating to the Town of Northampton, together with a translation thereof.

NORTHANTSIRE.

TEMPORE REGIS EDWARDI suēr in NORTHANTONE

in dñio regis lx. burgenses, hntes totid mansiones.

Ex his sunt m. xiiii. uaste. Residue sunt xl.vii.

Preter hos sunt m. in nouo burgo. xl. burgenses
in dñio regis Willelmi.

In ipso burgo hñ Eps constantiensis. xxiii. domos.
de xxix. solis. 7 iiii. denar^s.

Abb de S Edmundo. i. domū de. xvi. denar^s.

*F*uaste.

Abb de Burg. xv. dom^s de. xiiii. sol 7 viii. den^s. Due sñ

Abb de Ramefsg. i. domū de. xvi. denar^s.

Abb de Couentreu. iiii. dom^s de. xii. denar^s. Tres sñ uaste.

Abb de Euefham. i. domū uasta.

Abb de Salebi. ii. dom^s de. xxxii. denar^s.

Comes Moriton. xxxvii. de. xlv. sol 7 viii. den^s. Due sñ
uaste. De. ix. domibz harū hñ rex sñchā.

Comes Hugo. i. domū de. iiii. denar^s.

Comitaſsa Juſita. xvi. domos. de xii. sol. Vna. ē uasta.

Robt^o de Todenī .iiii. dom^o de .iiii. sol. Vna .ē uasta.
 Henric^o de fereiref. viii. dom^o de .ix. sol 7 iii. den^o / socā.
 Anſger^o capellan^o regis. i. domū de qua rex debet habē
 Wiſſ^o peurel. xxxii. dom^o. de. xxviij. solid^o 7 viii. den^o.
 Tres ex hiſ sunt uaste. / redd. xvi. denar^o
 Wiſſ^o fili^o boſelini. ii. de feudo epi baioc^o 7 comitiſſe Judit
 Wiſſ^o inganie. i. dom^o de Robto de boci. 7 nil reddit.
 Wiſo de Rainbuſcurt. iii. dom^o de. lxiii. denar^o.
 Walter^o ſlanđrenſis. x. dom^o de. viii. sol. Vna .ē uasta.
 Winemar^o. xii. dom^o de. iii. sol. Ex hiſ. ⁱⁱⁱ. sunt uaste.
 Ricar^o inganie. iii. dom^o de. iii. solid^o.
 Robt de Aluerſ. i. domū de. xii. den^o.
 Roger^o de boſcnorman. i. dom^o de. xvi. den^o.
 Goiſſfrid^o de Wirce. iii. dom^o de. iii. sol.
 Goiſſfrid^o alſelin 7 Rađ nepoſ ei^o. ii. dom^o de. ii. sol.
 Gilo fr^o Anſculſi. iii. dom^o de xxxii. denar^o
 Gunfrid^o de Ciocheſ. ⁱⁱⁱⁱ. dom^o de. ⁱⁱⁱⁱ. sol. Tres ſi uaste.
 Sigar de Ciocheſ. i. dom^o de xvi. den^o.
 Suain fili^o Azur xxi. dom^o de x. sol. ptin^o ad Stoches.
 Anſſfrid^o de ualbađon. ii. dom^o de. ii. sol. de feudo epi baioc^o
 Balduin^o dimiđ manſionē uasta. Leſtan^o. i. dom^o de ii den^o.
 Oſbn^o giſarđ. i. dom^o de. iii. den^o. ^{pbh} Goduin^o. i. domū de. xii. den.
 Durand^o ppoſit. i. dom^o de xvi. den^o de feudo Robti Todenī.
 Dodin. ii. dom^o de. xx. den^o. Vna .ē de Judit. ^{comitiſſa} alta de Winemaro.
 Hugo de Widuile. ii. dom^o de xxxii. denar^o.

x x x x x

/ Burgenſes de Hantone reddt uicecomiti p an^o. xxx. liđ 7 x. solid^o
 Hoc ptin^o ađ firma ipſuſ.

/ Juđita comitiſſa h^o. vii. liđ de exitib/ei^ođ burgi.

x x x x x

TERRA REGIS

x x x x x

Rex h^o in đmō de Portlanđ. ii. carucataſ. 7 ^{af} ii partēſ itie carucate.
 7 xii. acf pā. Ad eccliam S Petri iacet. i. car^o tre 7 ad eccliam
 omiū ſctu ģimiđ carucata. Portlanđ cū pto T.R.E. ređdeđ xl.viii.
 ſol. 7 x. solid^o p ſeltriſ ſomarioz regis. Sup hec debet rex habē. ix.
 liđ 7 xii. sol. p aliſ exitib^o burgi.

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

IN King Edward's time there were in Northampton, in the King's demesne, sixty burgesses, having as many mansions. Of these, fourteen are now waste. Forty-seven are left. Besides these, there are now in the new town forty burgesses in King William's demesne.

In the same town the Bishop of Coutance¹ has twenty-three houses, rendering twenty-nine shillings and four pence.

The Abbot of Saint Edmund² [has] one house, rendering sixteen pence.

The Abbot of Burgh³ fifteen houses, rendering fourteen shillings and eight pence. Two are waste.

The Abbot of Ramsey,⁴ one house, rendering sixteen pence.

The Abbot of Coventry,⁵ four houses, rendering twelve pence.

Three are waste.

The Abbot of Evesham,⁶ one house, lying waste.

¹ At the time of the great survey Geoffrey was bishop of the city of Coutance, in the department of Manch in Normandy. He received large spoils in England, and in Northamptonshire he owned lands in some thirty-four parishes.

² Bury Saint Edmunds monastery, situate in Suffolk. Baldwin, a monk of St. Denis at Paris, was the abbot of this wealthy abbey from 1065 to 1097. He was in great favour with the Conqueror, who granted a charter to Saint Edmunds. He owned lands in the counties of Bedford, Cambridge, Northampton, Norfolk, and Suffolk.

³ After the death of Abbot Brands in 1069, King William appointed Thorold or Turolde, a monk of Fescamp in Normandy, as abbot of Peterborough, Northamptonshire. During the time he was abbot, the Danes, headed by Hereward the Wake, plundered Peterborough, and destroyed many of the buildings. Abbot Thorold died at Peterborough about 1098.

⁴ The Abbey of Ramsey in Huntingdonshire, also owned land in seven other parishes in this county, and in the counties of Bedford, Cambridge, Hertford, Huntingdon, Lincoln, Norfolk, and Suffolk. Ailsius or Eysinus was made Abbot in 1080, and governed the monastery for eight years.

⁵ The Abbey of Coventry in Warwickshire, held lands in four other parishes in Northamptonshire, and in Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, and Warwickshire. Leofwinus or Lewinus was the last abbot. He is said to have died in 1095.

⁶ King William, after the death of Æthelwig the Abbot of Evesham in Worcestershire, in 1077, granted the abbey to Walter, a Norman chaplain of Lanfranc, who carried on great buildings at the abbey with the money which Æthelwig had gathered together. The abbey of Evesham only held land at Lichborough, in this county; and in the counties of Gloucester, Warwick, and Worcester.

The Abbot of Selby,⁷ two houses, rendering thirty-two pence.

The Earl of Mortain,⁸ thirty-seven [houses], rendering forty-five shillings and eight pence. Two are waste. Of nine of these houses the King has soc.

Earl Hugh,⁹ one house, rendering four pence.

The Countess Judith,¹⁰ sixteen houses, rendering twelve shillings. One is waste.

Robert de Todei,¹¹ four houses, rendering four shillings. One is waste.

Henry de Fereires,¹² eight houses, rendering nine shillings and four pence.

Ansger,¹³ the King's Chaplain, one house, of which the King ought to have soc.

⁷ Benedict, a monk of Auxerre in France, was the Abbot of Selby, Yorkshire at the time of the great survey. He also held land at Stanford; but these are the only two notices of this Abbey in Domesday.

⁸ Robert, Earl of Mortain in Normandy, was the son of Herlwin and Herleva, and half brother to the Conqueror: to his share fell the largest portion of the spoils of England—indeed he held land in some ninety-eight parishes in this county. According to Kelham he died in 1091.

⁹ "Hugh D'Avranches, son of the loyal Richard, the grandson of the rebel Thurstan, finds a place in English History as the first of the mighty but short-lived race of the County Palatine of Chester." He was surnamed Lupus. He held land in eight parishes in this county, and lands in other parts of England. Hugh refounded the abbey of St Sever in the Diocese of Coutance in 1085; re-endowed the monastery of St. Werburgh, and rebuilt the minster at Chester, where he died July 27th, 1101, having been professed a monk four days.

¹⁰ Countess Judith was the daughter of Odo, Earl of Champagne, by Adeliza, half-sister of the Conqueror. She was the wife of Waltheof, son of Siward, "the strong," Earl of Huntingdon, Northampton, and Northumberland, and left three daughters, Matilda, Judith, and Alice. The first was married to Simon de St Liz, with whom he had the Counties of Northampton and Huntingdon; the second to Ralph de Toni, Lord of Flamstead; and the third to Robert, fourth son of Richard de Tonebridge. Judith was possessed of large estates in Northamptonshire and other counties; and she founded the Nunnery of Elnstow in Bedfordshire.

¹¹ Robert de Todei, also called Robert de Belvedeir, was a noble Norman to whom the Conqueror gave several lordships in this and other counties. He founded Belvoir castle, and the cell of monks there which he annexed to St. Alban's abbey. He died in 1088.

¹² Henry de Fereires, the ancestor of the family of Ferrers, Earls of Derby, was a follower of William, and was one of the Commissioners for making the great survey. He obtained the lands of Godric; Tutbury castle in Staffordshire being one of his possessions.

¹³ Ansger was probably the King's private chaplain; and he was also probably the Angerus Clericus who held land of the King in the parish of Maidwell, Northamptonshire.

William Peverel,¹⁴ thirty-two houses, rendering twenty-eight shillings and eight pence.

Three of these are waste.

William, the son of Boselin, two [houses], of the fee of the Bishop of Bayeux and the Countess Judith, rendering sixteen pence.

William Inganie [holds] one house of Robert de Boci, and renders nothing.

Wido de Rainbudcurt,¹⁵ four houses, rendering sixty-four pence.

Walter Flandrensis,¹⁶ ten houses, rendering eight shillings. One is waste.

Winemar,¹⁷ twelve houses, rendering three shillings. Of these, four are waste.

Richard Inganie, four houses, rendering four shillings.

Robert de Aluers, one house, rendering twelve pence.

Roger de Boscnorman, one house, rendering sixteen pence.

Gosfrid de Wirce,¹⁸ four houses, rendering four shillings.

Gosfrid Alselin¹⁹ and his nephew Ralph, two houses, rendering two shillings.

Gilo,²⁰ the brother of Ansculf, three houses, rendering thirty-two pence.

Gunfrid de Cioches,²⁰ eight houses, rendering eight shillings. Three are waste.

¹⁴ William Peverel was a Norman adventurer of unknown origin, but who was said to have been the natural son of the Conqueror. He owned much land in the county of Northampton, which had previously belonged to Gita, and in the counties of Nottingham and Derby. He was in great trust with the Conqueror, and was the governor of the castle at Nottingham. He founded the two priories of Saint James, near Northampton, and Lenton, near Nottingham, and appears, to have lived until about 1140.

¹⁵ Wido de Rainbudcurt also held lands at Elkington in this county.

¹⁶ Walter of Flanders, with other Flemings, joined William before the invasion, he received lands in the counties of Northampton and Bedford, and was perhaps the same as Walter de Wabull.

¹⁷ Winemar was the chief steward of the Earl of Brittany: he held lands from the King in Cosgrove and other villages in Northamptonshire.

¹⁸ Geoffrey de Wirce was a native of Little Brittany in France, and he assisted William in the conquest of England. He also held lands at Elkington and Welford in this county.

¹⁹ Geoffrey Alselin obtained the land in this and other counties which had belonged to a Saxon named Tochi. His estates in Milton, Cullingtree, and Rothera-thorpe, after two generations, went by a daughter to the Bardolphs.

²⁰ Gilo held lands from the King in eleven villages in this county.

Sigar de Cioches,²¹ one house, rendering sixteen pence.

Suain,²² the son of Azur, twenty-one houses, rendering ten shillings, pertaining to Stoches.

Ansfrid de Valbadon, two houses, rendering two shillings, of the fee of the Bishop of Bayeux.

Baldwin, the moiety of a waste mansion. Lefstan, one house, rendering four pence.

Osbern Gifard, one house, rendering four pence. Godwin the priest, one house, rendering twelve pence.

Durand the Reeve,²³ one house, rendering sixteen pence, of the fee of Robert Todeni.

Dodin, two houses, rendering twenty pence. One is [held] of the Countess of Judith, the other of Winemar.

Hugh de Widvile, two houses, rendering thirty-two pence.

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The Burgesses of Hantone²⁴ render to the Sheriff yearly thirty pounds and ten shillings. This belongs to his farm.

The Countess Judith has seven pounds of the issues of the same town.

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The King's land.

x x x x x

The King has in the demesne of Portland²⁵ two carucates and two parts of a third carucate, and twelve acres of meadow. One carucate of land belongs to the Church of Saint Peter,²⁶ and half a carucate to the Church of All Saints.²⁷ Portland, with the meadow, in King Edward's time used to render forty-eight shillings, and ten shillings for the rugs of the King's sumpter horses. Besides this, the King ought to have nine pounds and twelve shillings for other issues of the town.

²¹ Gunfrid and Sigar de Cioches were, according to Kelham, related to each other. The former held estates in some seventeen parishes in this county, the latter only in one.

²² Suain also held land in Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire, where "fourteen villeins, with the priest and seven bordars, have five ploughs."

²³ Durand was perhaps the reeve of Northampton, a most important officer at that time.

²⁴ The Burgesses or Freemen of Northampton.

²⁵ It is not known where the demesnes of Portland were situated, but they were probably part of the adjoining meadows.

²⁶ Saint Peter's, near the Northampton Castle, was probably a Saxon church, the present building is of the late Norman period.

²⁷ All Saints', in the centre of the town, then as now the principal church.

The Great Rolls of the Pipe.

THE Great Rolls of the Exchequer, or Pipe Rolls, contain the accounts of the revenues of the crown. These are arranged according to the several counties, and are little more than the receipts and disbursements of the Sheriffs.

The first of these documents now existing is that of the 31st year of Henry I. After a break of thirty-six years, the series commences again in the second year of the reign of Henry II., and from this very remote time is complete until the present day, with the exception of the rolls for the first year of the reign of Henry III., and the seventh year of the reign of Henry IV.

These accounts form most interesting records, and throw considerable light on the customs of the time. The first roll here printed is, with the exception of the Domesday Book, the earliest national document of any importance.

As is evident, it is impossible to print in this volume the whole of these rolls from 1156 to the present time; it has, therefore, been thought advisable only to give the portions relating to the town of Northampton until 1189, when the first charter was granted to the town. The first six of these are printed in Latin and English, the remainder in English only.

ANNO 31 HEN I. 1130-31.

Burgum de Norhamtuna. Robt⁹ reuell⁹ redd⁹ cōpōt. de firma burgi de Norhātōna. Jn thāuro q^t.xx. 7. x. li. 7. xiiij. s. 7. iij. d.

Et Jn libat⁹ consti^t. viij. li. 7. ij. s. 7. j. d.

Et Jn Elemosinis Cons^tit. Monāch de Norhātōna .xx.s. Et Eidē Monāch .iii.s. 7. viij. d. p t^ra sua q^a rex cepit infra Castellū suū. Et Quiet⁹ est.

Hugo Gubiun. deb. x. m. arg. p plāc Duelli.

Ernulf⁹ fit Petri. deb. xv. m. arg. p fuga Monast⁹ii.

Et Id Robt⁹ redd⁹ Compot de Auxil burgi de Norhamtona.

Jn thāuro. viij. li. 7. iij. s.

Et Jn pdōn p. br. R⁹. Monāch de Norhātōna xxxiiij. s. Willō de Albiā bri⁹. ij. s. Et Quiet⁹ est.

The Borough of Northampton. Robert Revell²⁸ renders account of the Farm of the Borough of Northampton.

In the Treasury £90. 14s. 3d.

And in payments made £8. 2s. 1d.

And in alms paid to the Monks of Northampton²⁹ 20s. And to the same Monks 3s. 8d. for their land which the King took within his Castle. And he is quit.

Hugh Gubion³⁰ owes 10 marks in money for his plea of combat. Ernulf the son of Peter owes 15 marks in money for the flight of the Monks.

And the same Robert renders account of the Aid of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £8. 4s.

And in pardon by the King's writ to the Monks of Northampton 34s. To William de Albin Britus 2s. And he is quit.

ANNO 2 HEN. II. 1155-56.

Norhantuna. Rob fit Sawini. redd. Comp de firma Northaūt. Jn ih. l. ii.

Et Jn Soltis. Eid. Rob. l. ii. p. bf. R.

Et Jn Eleñ nouit Conſt. Militib; de Tēplo. j. m. arg.

Et hī de Suppl^o. j. m. arg.

Et Jd redd Comp de xl. m. de Dono Ciuitatis. North. Jn th. libauit. Et Quiet^o est.

Northampton. Robert the son of Sawin³¹ renders account of the Farm of Northampton.

In the Treasury £50.

And in payments to the said Robert £50 by the King's writ.

²⁸ Robert Revell was probably high sheriff of the county of Northampton in 1130-31.

²⁹ These monks of Northampton would, no doubt, be the monks of St. Andrew's Priory, which was founded before 1076, and largely endowed by Simon de St. Liz in 1084. The grounds of this Priory touched the grounds of the Castle on the north-west.

³⁰ This Hugh Gubion was the grandfather of the Richard Gubion who in 1200 obtained a grant of the land without the east gate of Northampton, to be held of the crown by the yearly payment of two shillings, in lieu of all services.

³¹ Robert, the son of Sawin, appears to have been sheriff of the county from 1155 to 1163, and from 1165 to 1174.

And in Alms newly paid to the Knights of the Temple ²² 1 mark in money.

And he hath [paid] in surplusage one mark in money.

And the same renders account of 40 marks of the gift of the City of Northampton ²³. He hath paid it into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

ANNO 3. HEN. II. 1156-57.

Norhantuna . Robert⁹ fili⁹ Sawini . redd⁹ Comp⁹ . de firma De Norhan^t. Jn th⁹ . L. ii .

Et Jn Suppl⁹ . xiiij . s . 7 iiij . d .

Et Jn Elemo^s . Const . Militib⁹ de Tēplo . j . m . ar^g .

Et Jn Soltis . p b^r . R⁷ . Eid⁹ Robto . L. ii .

Et hⁱ de Supp⁹ . ij . m . ar^g .

Northampton. Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northampton.

In the Treasury £50.

And in surplusage 13s. 4d.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark in money.

And in payment by the King's writ to the same Robert £50.

And he hath [paid] in surplusage 2 marks in money.

ANNO 4 HEN II. 1157-58.

Norhantuna .

Robert⁹ fit⁹ Sawini . redd⁹ Comp⁹ . de firma de Norhantuna . d⁹ . C ii ño Jn Suo Suppl⁹ . ij . m . ar^g . Et Jn Soltis Eid⁹ Rob⁹ . q^t . xx . 7 . xvij . ii .

Et Jn Ele^m nouit Conf^t . Militib⁹ de Tēplo . j . m . ar^g . Et Mona^{ch} de Scō Andrea . xx . s . p b^r . R⁷ . Et Quiet⁹ est.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northampton £100 tale. In his surplusage 2 marks in money. And in payments to the said Robert £97.

²² These Knights were probably of the order of Knight Templars of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton.

²³ Northampton is, by the error of the scribe, called a city.

And in Alms newly paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark in money. And to the Monks of Saint Andrew 20s. by the King's writ. And he is quit.

ANNO 5 HEN II. 1158-59.

Norhantoñ

Robert⁹ fili⁹ Sawini redd⁹ Comp⁹ de firma de Norhañt. In Soltis p bñ. R̃. Eid Robto q^{at} xx. 7. xvij. li. 7. vj. s̃. 7. viij. d.

Et Jn Elēm novit⁹ Const⁹ Mit de Tēplo. j. m̃. Et Monāch de Noñh xx. s̃. Et Quiet⁹ est.

Et Jd redd⁹ Comp⁹ de C C. m̃. de dono Burgi de Noñh. Jn ih. C. 7. iiij. li. 7. xij. s̃. 7. iiij. d.

Et Jn Soltis p bñ. R̃. Eid Rōb. xxxij. s̃. 7. iiij. d. ad pñciēd C. li.

Et Jn pdōn p br. R̃. Riē de Am̃bl. j. m̃. Et dēb xxvj. li. 7. vj. s̃. 7. viij. d.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northampton. In payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £98. 6s. 8d.

And in Alms newly paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And he is quit.

And the same renders account of 200 marks of the gift of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £104. 13s. 4d.

And in payments to the said Robert by the King's writ 33s. 4d. to make £100.

And in pardon to Richard de Amble by the King's writ 1 mark. And he owes £26. 6s. 8d.

ANNO 6. HEN. II. 1159-60.

Norhantona

Rob fil Sawini. redd⁹. Comp. de C. li de firma de Norhant. Militby de Tēplo. j. m̃. ar̃g Et Monāch de Noñh. xx. s̃.

Et Jpsi Robto Jn Soltis p br. R̃. C. li.

Et hī de Suppl⁹ xxxij. s̃. 7. iiij. d.

Jd redd⁹ Comp⁹ de xxvj. li. 7. vj. s̃. 7. viij. d de Dono Civitat⁹. Jn Soltis p bñ. R̃. Eid Rob. xxvj. li. vj. s̃. 7. viij. d Et Quiet⁹ est.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of £100. for the Farm of Northampton. To the Knights of the Temple one mark in money. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s.

And in payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £100.

And he hath [paid] in surplusage 33s. 4d.

The same renders account of £26. 6s. 8d. of the gift of the city.

In payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £26. 6s. 8d.

And he is quit.

ANNO 7 HEN. II. 1160-61.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of £100 for the Farm of Northampton. In payments to the said Robert £100 by the King's writ.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And he hath a surplusage of 33s. 4d.

And the same renders account of 160 marks of the gift of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury in two Tallies [*i.e.*, by two separate payments]. And he is quit.

And the same renders account of 26 marks for the Mint.³⁴ He hath paid the same into the Treasury. And he is quit.

ANNO 8 HEN. II. 1161-62.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northampton. In payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £100. In Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20 shillings. And he hath of surplusage 33s. 4d.

The same renders account of £10 of the Borough. In the treasury 66s. 8d. In payments to the same Robert by the King's writ £6 and 1 mark, and he hath in surplusage 4 marks.

Fulco de Lidoyus renders account for the assessment of the Forest of £20. In the treasury £18.

And in tithes paid to the Canons of Lincoln 40s. And he is quit.

ANNO 9 HEN. II. 1162-63.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northampton. In his surplusage 33s. 4d.

³⁴ This is the first notice of the Northampton mint, although one had existed in the town from early times.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And in payments by the King's writ to the said Robert £100. And he hath [paid] in surplusage 66s. 8d.

ANNO 10 HEN. II. 1163-64.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northampton. In his surplusage 66s. 8d.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s.

And in payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £100.

And he hath [paid] in surplusage 100s.

ANNO 11 HEN. II 1164-65.

Northamptonshire.

Simon the son of Peter ³⁵ renders account of £4 white ³⁶ of the old Farm of Northamptonshire. He hath paid the same into the Treasury. And he is quit.

And the same renders account of the new Farm. In the Treasury £109. 5s. 7d white.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark.

x x x x x

And in payments to Robert the son of Sawin by the King's writ £100.

And he owes £8. os. 13d. white.

ANNO 12 HEN. II. 1165-66.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of £100 for the Farm of Northampton. In his surplusage £6. 13s. 4d.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And in payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £100. And he hath [paid] in surplusage £8. 6s. 8d.

³⁵ Simon the son of Peter, or Simon Fitz-Piers, as he is called by Bridges, was sheriff from 1164-65.

³⁶ Coins paid into the Exchequer were generally tested by being melted, and if not of the proper fineness, the person paying the money had to pay sixpence or more in every pound: the money was then said to be blanché or white.

ANNO 13 HEN. II. 1166-67.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of £100 for [the farm of] Northampton. In payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £100.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s.

And he hath of surplusage 33s. 4d.

ANNO 14 HEN. II. 1167-68.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of £100 for the Town of Northampton. In his surplusage 33s. 4d.

And in payment to the said Robert by the King's writ £100.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark.

And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And he hath [paid] in surplusage 66s. 8d.

The same renders account of two hundred marks for the aid of the Borough of Northampton to marry Maud, the King's daughter.³⁷

In the Treasury £51. 13s. 4d.

And he owes £80. 33s. 4d..

ANNO 15 HEN II. 1168-69.

Northampton.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of £100 for the farm of Northampton. In his surplusage 66s. 8d.

And in payments to the said Robert by the King's writ £100.

And in alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And he hath [paid] in surplusage 100s.

The same renders account of £80. 33s. 4d. for the aid of the Borough of Northampton to marry Maud the King's daughter.

In the Treasury £62. 16s. and he owes £19. 12s. whereof £10 are upon the Moneyers³⁸ of the same Town who render account above in the County.

³⁷ The Princess Maud married Henry V. Duke of Saxony, surnamed *The Lion*. She died in 1189.

³⁸ The moneyers were the officers or ministers of the King's mint at Northampton.

ANNO 16 HEN. II. 1169-70.

Northamptonshire.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire for half-a-year.

* * * * *

Northampton.

The same renders account of £100 for the Farm of Northampton.

In the Treasury nothing.

And in his surplusage 100s. And in alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s.

And in payments to the same Sheriff by the King's writ £100.

And he hath [paid] in surplusage £6. 13. 4d. which is accounted to him in the Farm of Higham.³⁹

The same Sheriff renders account of £9. 12s. for the aid of the Borough of Northampton to marry the King's daughter. In the Treasury 58s. 8d.

And he owes £6. 13s. 4d.

ANNO 17 HEN. II. 1170-71.

Northamptonshire.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

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Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury nothing.

And in alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s.

And in payments to the same Sheriff by the King's writ £100.

And he hath [paid] in surplusage 33s. 4d. which is accounted to him in the Farm of Higham.

The same Sheriff owes £6. 13s. 4d. for the aid to marry the King's daughter.

ANNO 18 HEN. II. 1171-72.

Northamptonshire.

Robert the Son of Sawin renders account of £100. 5s. 2d. white for the old farm of Northamptonshire.

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³⁹ The town of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire.

Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury nothing.
 And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And in payments to the same Sheriff by the King's writ £98. 6s. 8d. And he is quit.

ANNO 19 HEN. II. 1172-73.

Northamptonshire.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire. In the Treasury £165. 7s. od. white.
 And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark.

* * * * *

Northampton.

And the same Sheriff [Simon the son of Peter] renders account of £100 for the new Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury nothing.
 And in Alms to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of Northampton 20s. And in payment to the same Sheriff by the King's writ £72. 11s. 8d. which came by Robba from the King.

And he owes £25. 15s. od.

And the same Sheriff owes £6. 13s. 4d. for the aid to marry the King's daughter.

William Andeg owes 17s. for the mint.

R. Antl the Clerk renders account of £4 for the mint

In the Treasury 40s.

And he owes 40s.

Concerning the aid to marry the King's daughter.

Regin the son of Urli owes 27d. on the part of six knights.

Robert de Chokes owes 40s. for the same aid.

The same Sheriff renders account of 22s. 1d. for the common assize of Northamptonshire. In the Treasury 9s. And he owes 13s. 1d.

ANNO 20 HEN. II. 1173-74.

Northamptonshire.

Robert the son of Sawin renders account of 28s. 8d. for the old Farm of Northamptonshire.

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The same Sheriff renders account of 100s. for the Farm of the land which belonged to Hugh Gobiun in Northampton. And of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton.

And also in alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark in the Borough of Northampton. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And in the payment of ten Knights⁴⁰ residing in Northampton Castle with the same Sheriff from the Morrow of Saint Michael last year [30 September 1173] until the Feast of Saint Peter ad vincula in the following year [1 August 1174] namely for three hundred and six days £153 by the King's writ. And in payment to one hundred and eight Knights who were with Humphry de Bohun⁴¹ the Constable £118 by the writs of Richard de Lucy.

And he hath [paid] in surplusage £7. 7s. od. which are accounted to him within the account of the Assize of Demesne.⁴²

ANNO 21 HEN. II. 1174-75.

Northamptonshire.

Hugh de Gundevile⁴³ renders account for the Farm of Northamptonshire.

x x x x x

Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £67. 6s. 8d., tale.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple in the Borough of Northampton one mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Kingshale.

And for the corrody of the younger Queen⁴⁴ for twenty eight days £30 by the King's writ.

⁴⁰ These Knights probably formed part of the garrison of the castle.

⁴¹ This Humphrey de Bohun is the first recorded constable of the Castle at Northampton. He was the ancestor of Humphry de Bohun, Earl of Essex, Hereford, and Northampton.

⁴² An Assize held to determine the right of litigants to demesnes or any real estate.

⁴³ Hugh de Gundevile was sheriff from 1174 to 1177.

⁴⁴ The corrody or allowance for meat, drink, and clothing for Margaret, daughter of Lewis, King of France, who married Henry, the second son of King Henry II. As Prince Henry was crowned King with his father in 1171, Princess Margaret was rightly called the younger Queen.

ANNO 22 HEN. II. 1175-76.

Northamptonshire.

Hugh de Gundevile renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

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Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £96. os. 5d.

And in alms paid to the Knights of the Temple in the Borough of Northampton one mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the meadow of Chingeshala. And in the payments of John the Clerk of E. Queen of Spain⁴⁶ who abode in the Schools at Northampton 6s. for three weeks by the King's writ. And to Hugh Saloman 12s. for the armour which he conveyed from Huntingdon to Northampton by the King's writ. And for conveying treasure to Woodstock to Geddington and to London 7s. by Waleran and Odo de Fawsley. And for executing justice upon William de Helford 15d. And he is quit.

ANNO 23 HEN. II. 1176-77.

Northamptonshire.

Hugh de Gundevile renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

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Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £97. 6s. 8d. And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple in the Borough of Northampton one mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Chingeshala. And he is quit.

ANNO 24 HEN. II. 1177-78.

Northamptonshire.

Thomas the son of Bernard⁴⁶ renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

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⁴⁶ Eleanor, daughter of Henry II., who in 1170 married Alfonso III. of Spain.

⁴⁶ Thomas the son of Bernard was sheriff from 1177 to 1184.

Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £97. 6s. 8d. And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple in the Borough of Northampton one mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the meadow of Kingshale. And he is quit.

ANNO 25 HEN. II. 1178-79.

Northamptonshire.

Thomas the son of Bernard renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

x x x x x

Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £74. 15s. 8d. And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple in the Borough of Northampton one mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in Kingshale.

And for the works of the King's kitchen and houses in Northampton by the view of Henry the son of Thiard and of Philip the son of Jordan £7 by the King's writ. And for cloths and for the use of the King's servants £7. 17s. 6d. by the King's writ. And in his surplusage for the Farm of Higham £7. 6s. 6d. And for conveying the King's venison from Brigstock to Canterbury 11s. by the King's writ. And for the King's works at Silveston 16s. by the King's writ. And he is quit.

ANNO 26 HEN. II. 1179-80.

Northamptonshire.

Thomas the son of Bernard renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

x x x x x

Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £97. 6s. 8d. And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple one mark. And to the Monks of the same town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Kingshale.

And he is quit.

ANNO 27 HEN. II. 1180-81.

Northamptonshire.

Thomas the son of Bernard renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

x x x x x

Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £97. 6s. 8d. tale. And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Chingshale.

And he is quit.

ANNO 28 HEN. II. 1181-82.

Northamptonshire.

Thomas the son of Bernard renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

x x x x x

Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £24. 17s. 7d.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Chingeshale.

And for the repairs of the Tower of Northampton⁴⁷ by the view of Philip the son of Jordan and of William the son of Raimond £64. 0s. 13d. by the King's writ.

And he owes £8. 8s.

The same Sheriff renders account of 60s. for the Mint of Northampton for this year. And of 30s. for the same mint for half a year. He hath paid the same into the Treasury in two tallies.

And he is quit.

ANNO 29 HEN. II. 1182-83.

Northamptonshire.

Thomas the son of Bernard renders account for the Farm of Northamptonshire.

x x x x x

⁴⁷ This tower stood near the Derngate on the south-east of the town, from whence signals could be passed to the Castle on the other side.

Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £62. 5s. 6d. tale. And in Alms to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Chingeshala.

And for the repairs of the Tower of Northampton by the view of William the son of Rain and Philip the son of Jordan £35. 0s. 14d. by the King's writ. And he is quit.

And the same Sheriff renders account of £8. 8s. for the Farm of Northampton. For work for the aforesaid Tower £8. 8s. by the beforesaid brief and view. And he is quit.

And the same Sheriff renders account of 60s. for the Mint of Northampton for that year. And of 30s. for the same. He hath paid it into the Treasury. And he is quit.

Alan de Coventry renders account of half a mark for the old manufacture in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid it into the Treasury. And he is quit.

William the son of Remund renders account of 2s. for one messuage in the same Borough. He hath paid it into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

ANNO 30 HEN. II. 1183-84.

Northamptonshire.

Thomas the son of Bernard renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

x x x x x

Northampton.

The same Sheriff renders account of £100 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £94 tale. And in Alms to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Chingeshale.

And for working at the Hall of Northampton 3s. by the King's writ. And he owes 63s. 8d. tale. The same renders account of the same debt. He hath paid it into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

The same Sheriff renders account of 60s. for the Mint of Northampton for this year. He hath paid it into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

Alan de Coventry renders account of 2s. for the old Mint in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury. And he is quit.

William the son of Raymond renders account of 2s. for one messuage in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury. And he is quit.

ANNO 31 HEN. II. 1184-85.

Northamptonshire.

Geoffrey the son of Peter⁴⁸ renders account of the Farm of Northamptonshire.

x x x x x

Northampton.

William the son of Remund and William the son of Alfwin renders account of £120 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £117. 6s. 8d. tale.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Chingeshala.

And they are quit.

The Burgesses of Northampton render account of 200 marks for having their town of the King in Capite.⁴⁹ In the Treasury 100 marks.

And they owe 100 marks.

Brother Alan of Coventry renders account of half a mark for the old Farm in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid it into the Treasury. He is quit.

The same Sheriff renders account of 60s. for the Mint of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

William the son of Remunde renders account of 2s. for one messuage in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury. And he is quit.

The same Sheriff (renders account) owes 16s. 11d. for wastes and assarts⁵⁰ and Pleas of the Forest in Northamptonshire by Alan de Nevill.

⁴⁸ Geoffrey the son of Peter was sheriff from 1184 to 1190.

⁴⁹ This was an additional sum that was paid by the burgesses for the privilege of holding their Town immediately from the King.

⁵⁰ Parts of the forest from which trees and undergrowth had been destroyed.

ANNO 32 HEN. II. 1185-86.

Northamptonshire.

Geoffrey, the son of Peter £14. 5s. od. white for the old Farm of Northamptonshire.

x x x x x

Northampton.

William the son of Remund and William the son of Alfwin render account of £120 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £117. 6s. 8d. tale.

And in alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the meadow of Chingeshala.

And they are quit.

The same Sheriffs render accounts of 60s. for the Mint of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And they are quit.

William the son of Remund renders account of 2s. for one messuage in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

The Burgesses of Northampton render account of 100 Marks for having their town at farm of the King in Chief. They have paid the same into the Treasury.

And they are quit.

ANNO 33 HEN. II. 1186-87.

Northamptonshire.

Geoffrey the son of Peter renders account of £14. 5s. white for the old Farm of Northamptonshire.

x x x x x

Northampton.

William the son of Remund and William the son of Alfwin render account of £120 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £117. 6s. 8d. tale,

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple, 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same Town 20s. And to Hugh the son of Robert the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Kingeshala.

And they are quit.

The same Sheriff renders account of 60s. for the Mint of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

William the son of Remund renders account of 2s. for one messuage in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

The same Sheriff renders account of 8s. for a certain purpresture⁸¹ in Northampton which Peter the son of Adam holds. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Maud Gobion holds. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Reginald the son of Reimund holds. He hath paid the same into the Treasury in three tallies.

And he is quit.

ANNO 34 HEN. II. 1187-88.

Northamptonshire.

Geoffrey the son of Peter owes £14. 5s. white for the old Farm of Northamptonshire.

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Northampton.

Robert de Leicester renders account of £120 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £117. 6s. tale.

And in alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 mark. And to the Monks of the same Town, 20s. And to Robert the son of Hugh the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Chingeshala.

And he is quit.

The same Sheriff renders account of 60s. for the Mint of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

William the son of Remund renders account of 2s. for one messuage in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

The same Sheriff renders account of 8d. for a certain purpresture in Northampton. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Maud Gobion holds. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Reginald the son of Remund holds. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Ralph the son of Meinfelin holds. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

ANNO 1 RIC. I. 1189-90.

Northampton.

Robert de Leicester and Gilbert the son of Durand render account

⁸¹ A building or inclosure made to the prejudice of the King, probably being an encroachment on the highway.

of £120 tale for the Farm of the Borough of Northampton. In the Treasury £117. 6s. 8d. tale.

And in Alms paid to the Knights of the Temple 1 Mark. And to the Monks of the same town 20s. And to Robert the son of Hugh the son of Sawin 20s. in the Meadow of Chingeshala.

And they are quit.

The same Sheriff Geoffrey the son of Peter renders account of 60s. for the Mint of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

William the son of Reimund renders account of 2s. for one messuage in the Borough of Northampton. He hath paid the same into the Treasury.

And he is quit.

The same Sheriff renders account of 8d. for a certain purpresture in Northampton. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Margar Gubion holds. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Reginald the son Reimund holds. And of 4d. for a certain purpresture which Ralph the son of Meinfelin holds. He hath paid the same into the Treasury in four tallies.

And he is quit.

x x x x x

Nicholas the brother of Alan of Coventry owes 20 Marks for one messuage in Northampton, by the promise of his brother.

Ralph de Glanvill owes 50 Marks which he acknowledges that he hath received of Samuel the Jew of Northampton who owed the same by agreement between Margaret of London and her sons and daughters.

x x x x x

The Township of Northampton renders account of 30 Marks because they held Pleas which pertained to the Sheriff by writ directed to the Sheriff. The same hath been paid into the Treasury.

And [the Township] is quit.

Charter of 1st Richard I.

18TH NOVEMBER, 1189.

THIS charter, the first granted to Northampton, is a very early one. Even the City of London itself only possesses three of earlier date. The charter like others of this period is directed to all the dignitaries of the great national council, and is almost identical with the charter of the same date, granted to the citizens of London, except that no provision is made for hunting grounds for the Northampton burgesses.

The year in which this charter was granted is technically known as the time of "legal memory": inasmuch as it was necessary in order to establish a custom in England to prove that it had existed from this remote period, or in other words "from time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." This period has now, however, been shortened to twenty or thirty years.

Text of the Charter.

Ric̃ ſi grā Rex Angl̃ Dux Norm̃ Aq̃t̃ Com̃ Añ Archiēpiſ̃ Epiſ̃.
Ab̃biſ̃. Com̃ Baſ̃. Juſtiē Viē. & Om̃ib̃ miniſtr̃ & fidelib̃ ſuiſ̃
Frañ & Angl̃. Sal̃. Sciatiſ̃ noſ gceſſiſſe Burgenſib̃ nriſ̃ de
Norhañt qđ null⁹ eoſ placitet ex⁹ muroſ Burgi Norhañt de nullo
placito. p̃t̃ placita de tenur⁹ ext̃iorib̃ exceptiſ̃ monetaſ̃ &
miniſtr̃ nriſ̃. Conceſſim⁹ & eiſ̃ q̃etanciā murdri Infra Burg̃ &
Jn Porſoka & qđ null⁹ eoſ faciat duellū & qđ de plac̃ ad
Coronā ptinentib̃ ſe poſſint diſfronare ſed̃m̃ g̃ſuetudine Ciuiū
Ciuitatiſ̃ Loñ. & qđ Infra muroſ Burgi illi⁹ nemo capiat
hoſpitiū p̃ vim ut p̃ lib⁹atonē mareſcalli. Hoc & eiſ̃ gceſſim⁹ qđ
om̃s Burgenſeſ Norhañt ſint q̃eti de theloneo & leſtagio p̃ Tota
Angliā & p̃ Port⁹ mariſ̃. Et qđ null⁹ de mia⁹ pecuiē Judicet ut
ſed̃m̃ legē qm̃ hūt Ciueſ nri Loñ & qđ Jn Burgo illo Jn nullo
placito ſit meſkinninga & qđ huſting̃ ſemel tañt Jn Ebdomado

teneat & qđ ſraf ſuas & tenuras & vadia ſua & debita ſua Omnia Juſte hant q'cumq; eiſ debeat. Et de ſrif ſuiſ & tenur q̄ Infra Burg ſunt rectū eiſ teneat ſedm qſuetudinē Burgi & de Omib; debitif ſuiſ q̄ accomodata ſūrint apđ Norhañt & de vadiiſ ibid ſciſ placita apđ Norhatoñ teneanť. Et ſiq' Jn tota Anglia thel-oneñ ut qſuetudinē ab hominib; Norhañt cepit p'q^a ipē a recto defec'it p'poſit; Norhañt Namiff Jñ apđ Norhañt capiat In ſup & ad Emendaconē illiz Burgi eiſ conceſim; qđ ſint q'eti de Brudtol & de Childwite & de hieresgiue & de Scottale. Ita qđ p'poſit; Norhañt ut aliq'ſ aliz Balliuz Scottale nō faciat. Haſ p'dictaſ qſuetudineſ eiſ qceſſim; & Omſ aliaſ libtatēſ & lib'af qſuetudineſ q' hūerunt ut hūt Ciueſ ūri Lond. q̄u melioreſ ut lib'ioſeſ hūer ſedm libtatēſ Lond. & legeſ Burgi Norhañt Qr volum; & firmiſ p'cipim; qđ ipi & hēdeſ eoꝝ n Omia p'dicta h'editarie hant & teneant de nob & h'edib; nriſ reddendo p Aññ centū & viginti libraf nūo de villa Norhañt cū Omib; ptinen; ſuiſ ad Seacem nrm Jn ſmino Sāi Michael p manū p'poſiti Norhañt & Burgeneſ Norhañt faciant p'poſitū quē volūint de ſe p Annu. q̄. ſit Jdone; nob & eiſ. T. Hūg Dunelm. Johē Norwic. Hubto Sar' Epīſ. Coñ Alb. Coñ Witto de Arundel. Coñ Riē de Clara. Com Hamet de Warenn. Walſo filio Rodb Dāt apđ Sem Edmūdū. xvij. die Nouemb' p manū Witli Electi Elyenſiſ Cancellarij nri Regni nri Anno PRIMO.

Indorsed.

Iſta carta allocat. p Johēm Peache Maiorem de Ciuitatiſ London & Aldermannos eiuiſdem Ciuitatiſ Et intratur in camara Gyhald eiuidm Ciuitatiſ videlicet in libro cū lra G folio centefimo Witto de Holbeck & Jacobo de Thane tunc tempis vicecomitib; London.

Translation.

Richard by the Grace of God King of England Duke of Normandy Aquitain Earl of Anjou to the Archbishops Bishops Abbotts Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs and all his Ministers and faithful men French and English Greeting know ye that we have granted to our Burgesses of Northampton that none of them plead without the walls of the Borough of Northampton of any plea except pleas of outholdings¹² except our moneyers and ministers Also we have

¹² Pleas concerning lands and tenements lying outside the town.

granted to them acquittance of murder⁵⁵ within the Borough and in portoken⁵⁶ and that none of them make duel⁵⁷ and that of pleas appertaining to the Crown they may justify according to the custom of the Citizens of the City of London⁵⁸ and that within the walls of the same Borough no one take hostellage⁵⁹ by force or by livery of the Marshall. And this we have granted to them that all the Burgesses of Northampton be quit of toll⁶⁰ and Lastage⁶¹ through all England and by the ports of the sea. And that no one of Amercement of money be adjudged but according to the law which our Citizens of London had. And that in the same Borough there be in no plea miskenning⁶². And that the Hustings⁶³ be held only once in the week and that they justly have all their Lands and Holdings and pledges and Debts whomsoever owe to them. And of their Lands and Holdings which are within the Borough right be kept to them according to the custom of the Borough and of all their Debts which shall be lent at Northampton and of the Pledges there made pleas be held at Northampton. And if any one in All England take toll or custom from the men of Northampton after he have failed of right the Reeve of Northampton⁶⁴ shall take distress thereof at Northampton. Moreover for the amendment of the same Borough we have granted to them that they be quit of brudtol⁶⁵ and of

⁵⁵ Freedom from the penalty which was exacted from the inhabitants of a town or hundred, wherein a murder had been committed.

⁵⁶ Portoken comprised the liberties of a town outside the walls.

⁵⁷ To make duel was to challenge to combat in order to prove a cause.

⁵⁸ The custom of the City of London, being the first city in the land, then, as now, established customs for other towns.

⁵⁹ Hostellage was the compelling of an inn keeper to maintain any person without payment. The Marshall was one of the King's officers, whose duty was to provide lodgings for the sovereign and his retinue.

⁶⁰ Toll was a sum paid for passing over certain roads or bridges, entering certain boroughs, or exposing wares for sale.

⁶¹ Lastage, was a duty levied on wares sold by the last.

⁶² Miskenning was a mistake in the plea, for which a fine had to be paid.

⁶³ Hustings, a local court held before the reeve or mayor of the Town. This was a court of record and had existed from very early times.

⁶⁴ The reeve was the most important officer in a town, being the successor of the Saxon geref or steward. He presided at the court of hustings, collected the King's dues, and generally ruled the town. The right therefore given by this charter to the burgesses to choose their own reeve was a most important one.

⁶⁵ Brudtol, or pontage was a toll for passing over or under a bridge.

childwite⁶⁴ and of heresgive⁶⁵ and of scotale⁶⁶ so that the Reeve of Northampton or any other bailiff do not make Scotale We have granted to them the aforesaid customs and all other liberties and free customs which our Citizens of London⁶⁷ had or have when they had them best or more freely according to the liberties of London and the Laws of the Borough of Northampton Wherefore we will and firmly command that they and their Heirs all the things aforesaid have and hold hereditarily of us and our Heirs rendering therefore by the year one hundred and twenty pounds by tale for the town of Northampton with all its appurtenances at our Exchequer at the term of St. Michael by the hands of the Reeve of Northampton And the Burgesses of Northampton shall make a Reeve whom they will of themselves by the year who may be proper for us and them Witness Hugh Bishop of Durham⁶⁸ John Bishop of Norwich⁶⁹ Hubert Bishop of Salisbury⁷⁰ Earl Albrs⁷¹ Earl William de Arundel⁷² Earl Richard de Clare⁷³ Earl Hameline de Warenne⁷⁴ Walter the son of Rodbert Given at Saint Edmunds the eighteenth day of November by the hands

⁶⁴ Childwite, was the penalty for begetting a child on a lord's bond woman.

⁶⁵ Heresgive or yeresgive was probably a compulsory new year's gift to the sovereign.

⁶⁶ Scotale was probably a compulsory payment for a license to brew or sell ale.

⁶⁷ This provision imported into this charter all the extensive and valuable concessions contained in the charter of Henry I. to the citizens of London.

⁶⁸ Hugh Pudsey, King Stephen's nephew, was Archdeacon of Winchester, and Chancellor of York; Bishop of Durham from 1153 to 1195. He was buried in the Chapter House at Durham.

⁶⁹ John of Oxford, Dean of Salisbury. King's Chaplain; Bishop of Norwich, 1175 to 1200.

⁷⁰ Hubert Walter, Dean of York, accompanied Richard I. to the Holy Land; he was Bishop of Salisbury, 1189 to 1193, when he was translated to Canterbury. He died in 1205, and was buried in his own Cathedral.

⁷¹ Perhaps this was the son of Earl William de Arundel.

⁷² William de Albiney was born about 1176, and succeeded as Earl of Arundel and Chichester in 1176, and was created Earl of Sussex 1177, he became a Crusader and died in 1196. "Erat magnus & fortis."

⁷³ Richard Fitz-Gilbert, the cousin of King William I., the Earl of Clare, Lord of Tonbridge, and Lord of Bienfaite and Orbec in Normandy, was born before 1035, and died before 1090.

⁷⁴ Hamelin, the natural son of Geoffrey Count of Anjou, was born before 1151, he succeeded as Earl of Surrey and Warenne in 1164, and died in 1202.

of William the Elect of Ely⁷⁵ Our Chancellor in the first year of our reign.

Indorsed.

This Charter is allowed by John Peeche⁷⁶ Mayor of the City of London and the Aldermen of the same City; and is entered in the Chamber of Guildhall of the same city to wit—in the Book with the Letter "G" folio one hundred.

William de Holbech and James de Tame then Sheriffs of London.

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment 16 inches wide, and 6½ inches deep; the writing is rounded in character, and unornamented; the lower fold is cut for three attached seals, but these have now disappeared.

On the back is written in a later hand:—

"Ric: 1⁰⁰

" 18 Nov: j^{mo} Rici j^{mi}

" Grant to the Burgeises of Northampton of several Priviledges and Immunitys & particularly that they shall be free from Toll and Lastage throughout all England and the Sea Ports reserving the yearly Rent of 120^l payable to the Crown for the same."

"1"

The numbers indorsed on the charters now in the borough, refer to the list of the muniments made by Mr. Stewart A. Moore in 1864.

⁷⁵ William de Longo Campo, Chancellor and Justiciary, and Bishop of Ely from 1190 to 1197. He died at Poitiers, and was buried there in the Cistercian Abbey.

⁷⁶ John Peeche was Lord Mayor of London in 1361; William Holbech and James Tame being Sheriffs the same year.

Charter of 1st John.

17TH APRIL 1200.

THE greater part of this charter is word for word the same as the last: but this grant contains a further provision for the appointment of two burgesses as reeves; and of four discreet men of the Town to keep the pleas of the crown and to oversee the reeves.

Text of the Charter.

Carta bvr gensjvm de Norhamton.

J. Di grā Rex Angl. &c. Omnibz fidelibz suis Salt. Sciatis nos concessisse burgū nr̄is de Norh qđ n̄ris eoꝝ placitet ex'. muros burgi de Norhamton de aliq'. placito p̄l placita de ten'is ext'ioribz exeptis monetar & ministis nr̄is. Concessim'. & eis q'etanciam murd' infra burgū & in Porthioka & qđ n̄ris eoꝝ faciat duellu. & qđ de placitis ad corona ptinentibus se possint disfronare sedm̄ consuetudinē ciuif ciuit' Lond'. & qđ inf'. muros burgi nemo capiat hospiciū p vi. ut p libationē marescalli Hoc & eis concessim'. qđ om̄s Burgens Norhamton sint queti de Theloneo & Lestagio p totam Angl. & port'. Maris & qđ n̄ris de mia pecunie indicet'. nisi scdm legē qū habuerunt ciuif nr̄i Lond' tempore H. Regis patris nr̄i & qđ in Burgo illo in nullo placito sit meskenninga. & qđ Husting semel tm̄ in Ebdomoda teneat'. Et qđ t̄ras & tenuras & vadia sua & debita sua omia iuste hant quicunq eis debeat. Et de t̄ris suis & tenuris q inf'. Burgum iū rectum eis teneat' scdm q̄suetudinē Burgi. Et de omnibz debitis suis que accomodata fuerint ap Norhampt & de vadiis ibidē r̄cis placita ap Norh teneant. Et siq's in tota Angl Thelonen ul q̄suetud ab hominibz Norh cepit postq' ipi a recto defec'it. p̄posit' Norh namū in capiat ap Norh Jusup & ad emdationē

illius Burgi eis concessim⁹ qđ sint quieti de Brudtoll & de Gildewit & de Yeresue & de Scotalle. Ita qđ pposit⁹ Nořh ut aliq's ali⁹ balliuis Scotale fio faciat. Has pdictas qđuetud eis concessim⁹ & oř alias lib⁹ & lib. qđuetud qđ habuerut ciues nři Lond. qđ meliores & libiores habuerunt tempe. H. Rēg pat' nři seđm lib. Lond & leges burgi Norhamtoñ Qře volum⁹. & firmit⁹. pcpim⁹. qđ ipi & Hedes eoz h oĩa pdicta hēditarie teneant & habeant de nob & hedibz nřis reddendo p añn Cent⁹ & xx ti mio de viit Nořhampton & omibz ptiñ suis ad secm nřm i tmino Sēi Mich p manū ppositi Nořh. Et Burgens faciant ppositu quē uoluerint de se p am q' sit ydone⁹ nob & eis hoc m⁹ selt qđ ide burg nři p gune qđiliū villate sue eligant duos de legalioribz & dūc⁹icioribz burg ville sue & pŕesentement eos capitali Justic nře ap Westm q' bū & fidel'. custodiant pposituram ville Nořh. Et n ammueant⁹ qđin in bailla sua bū se gesserint n' p gune qđilin villate sue. volum⁹ & qđ in eod burgo p gune qđiliū villate sue eligant qtuor de legalioribz & dūc⁹ecioribz hominibz de burgo ad custod placita Corone nře & alia q ad nos ptinent in eod Burgo & ad videndū qđ ppositi illius burgi iuste & legitime tractent tam paupes quam diuites. T. Willo Mareŕcall. Com de penbrok Robto Com Leic. W. Com Sarr & multis aliis. Dat p mañ Sim Archid Welleñs apud Windlesfor xvijdie Ap'lis. anno regni nři primo.

Translation.

A Charter of the Burgesses of Northampton.

John by the Grace of God King of England &c To all his faithful men Greeting Know ye that we have granted to our Burgesses of Northampton that none of them plead without the walls of the Borough of Northampton of any plea except pleas of outholdings except our Moneyers and Ministers Also we have granted to them acquittance of murder within the Borough and in portsoken And that none of them make Duel And that of pleas appertaining to the Crown they may justify according to the custom of the Citizens of the City of London and that within the walls of the Borough no one take Hostellage by force or by delivery of the Marshall And this we have granted to them that all the Burgesses of Northampton be quit of Toll and Lastage through all

England and the ports of the Sea And that no one of amerceament of Money be adjudged but according to the Law which our Citizens of London had in the time of King Henry our father and that in the same Borough there be no plea miskenning. And that the Hustings be held only once in the week And that they justly have all their Lands and holdings and their pledges and debts whomsoever owe to them And of their Lands and holdings which are within the Borough right be kept to them according to the custom of the Borough And of all their debts which shall be lent at Northampton and of the pledges there made pleas be held at Northampton and if any one in all England take Toll or Custom from the Men of Northampton after he have failed from right the Reeve of Northampton shall take distress thereof at Northampton Moreover for the amendment of the same Borough we have granted to them that they be quit of Burdtol and of Childwite and of Yeresgive and of Scotale so that the Reeve of Northampton or any other Bailiff do not make Scotale We have granted to them the aforesaid customs and all other liberties and free customs which our citizens of London had when they had them best and more freely in the time of King Henry our father according to the liberties of London and the Laws of the Borough of Northampton Wherefore we will and firmly command that they and their heirs all these things aforesaid hold and have hereditarily of us and our heirs rendering by the Year one hundred and twenty pounds by tale for the Town of Northampton with all its appurtenances at our Exchequer at the term of Saint Michael by the hands of the Reeve of Northampton And the Burgesses shall make a Reeve whom they will of themselves by the year who may be proper for us and them with this only to wit that our same Burgesses by the Common Council of their Town may choose two of the more lawful and discreet Burgesses of their Town and present them to our Chief Justice at Westminster who shall well and faithfully keep the Reeveship of the Town of Northampton and they shall not be amoved so long as they well conduct themselves in their Bailiwick unless by the Common Council of their Town Also we will that in the same Borough by the Common Council of their town there be chosen four of the more lawful and discreet men of the Borough to keep the pleas of our Crown and other things which pertain to us in the same Borough and to see that the Reeves of the same

Borough justly and lawfully treat as well the poor as the rich
 Witness William Marshall Earl of Pembroke⁷⁷ Robert Earl of
 Leicester⁷⁸ William Earl of Salisbury⁷⁹ and many others given
 by the hand of Simon Archdeacon of Wells⁸⁰ at Windsor the
 seventeenth day of April in the first year of our reign.

This charter is not with the other muniments of the borough
 and has probably been destroyed. The preceding transcript has
 been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office in
 London, where it is contained in a roll with divers charters of
 other towns, and is referred to as:—

Cartæ Antiquæ "G." 15.

⁷⁷ William the Marshall was born before 1153, he was Earl of Pembroke and Striguil, Lord of Leinster in Ireland, and Lord of Orbec and Longueville in Normandy, and he died in 1219. He was "memorable for the great care he had of King Henry III., in his minority; and more memorable for the little care that destiny had of his posterity; for leaving his five sons behind him, they all lived to be earls successively, yet all died without issue."

⁷⁸ Robert de Bréteuil, Earl of Leicester, and Lord of Hinckley, Bréteuil, Paci and the Honour of Grantmesnil, was born after 1168, and was the Patron of Luffield Priory in this County, he died in 1206. He was "præstantissimus comes."

⁷⁹ William Lungespée, the natural son of King Henry II., was born before 1176, and created Earl of Salisbury in 1198, he was Lord of Ambresbury and the Honour of Eye. He died in 1226.

⁸⁰ Simon de Welles was Bishop of Chichester from 1204 to 1207.

Letters Patent of 3rd Henry III.

6TH NOVEMBER, 1218.

BY these letters addressed to the sheriff the King gave directions concerning the fair at Northampton, and appointed bailiffs to superintend the same.

Text of these Letters Patent.

D feria Norhañt.

Rex Falk de Breant & baiiff Norhant salm Sciatis nos cōstituisse dilectōs & fideles nros Heñr de Pente Audomañ & Rañ de Norwic clericum baiifos nros ad custodiendū feriā Norhañt & disponendū omnia q̄ ad nos ptinent in p̄dca feria. Et ldo vob mandam⁹ qđ ad hoc cōsiliū & auxiliū q̄ntumcumq̄ potitis eis ipendatis. T. Cōm. W. mañ rectore nro & Regni nri ap Westm̄. vj. die Noūemb̄. Anñ. ƿ. ñ l'io. p ipm Cōm & dñm P. Winton ep̄m Et mandatū est eis qđ cōsiliū & auxiliū p̄dcis. H. & R. q̄ntumcumq̄ potunt ipendant ad capiendū In feria Norhañt Lanaf & coria & pannos ad opus dñi Regis q̄s dus Rex m̄catoribz de hiis satisfacc̄ competñt.

Et mandāt est m̄catoribus & aliis existitibz In feria Norhañt qđ in omibz q̄ ad p̄dcam feriā ptenent p̄dcis H. & R. tanq̄ baiifis dñi Regis Intendentes sint & respondentes.

Mandatū est & omibz m̄catoribus existitibz in feria Norhañt qđ Lanaf coria & pannos q̄ p̄dci baiifi cape volūnt in p̄dca feria ad opz dñi Rēg eis Libair & sū difficultate Libent scit⁹ qđ dñs Rex de p̄cio eoz eis in t̄ri satisfacciet cōpetñt.

Translation.

Concerning the Fair of Northampton.

The King to Falk de Breant⁸¹ and the Bailiffs of Northampton

⁸¹ Falk or Fulk de Breant was sheriff of Northamptonshire for the years from 1216 to 1224 inclusive. For a short time he was in possession of Bedford Castle.

Greeting Know ye that we have appointed our beloved and trusty Henry de Pente "Audomaſ" and Ralph de Norwich⁸³ Clerk our Bailiffs to keep the Fair of Northampton and to dispose all things which to us pertain in the aforesaid Fair And therefore we do command you that ye do in this matter render them whatsoever counsel and aid ye can Witness William Earl Marshall⁸⁴ Regent of us and of our Realm at Westminster the 6th day of November in the third year of our reign by the said Earl and the Lord P. Bishop of Winchester.⁸⁴

And it is commanded to the same that they do render to the aforesaid H. and R. whatsoever counsel and aid they can to take in Northampton Fair to the King's use wools and hides and cloths insomuch as the Lord the King will fully satisfy the Merchants therefore.

And it is commanded to the Merchants and others being at Northampton Fair that they be in all things which to the aforesaid Fair pertain attendant and respondent to the aforesaid H. and R. as the Bailiffs of the Lord the King.

It is also commanded to all the Merchants being at Northampton Fair that they do liberally and without difficulty deliver the wools hides and cloths which the aforesaid Bailiffs shall take in the aforesaid Fair to the use of the Lord the King knowing that he the Lord the King will shortly fully satisfy them for the price thereof.

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot: Pat: 3^{re} Hen. III. p. 1. m. 6.

⁸³ Ralph de Norwich was rector of Stanwick, Northamptonshire, from 1233 to 1238.

⁸⁴ For Note as to William Earl Marshall, see page 33.

⁸⁵ Peter de Ropibus Knight was appointed Bishop of Winchester in 1205. He was a crusader in 1226, when he restored the Church of St. Thomas and the fortifications of Joppa. He founded a chapel in the church of St. Mary Overie, and St Thomas' Hospital, London. He died in 1238 and was buried at Winchester.

Letters Patent of 9th Henry III.

24TH DECEMBER, 1224.

BY these letters, also directed to the sheriff, the King granted to the burgesses of Northampton the right to levy tolls on carts coming into the town, and goods sold there, and to apply the proceeds towards inclosing the town with a wall.

Text of these Letters Patent.

D villa Norham̄ Claudenda.

Rex vic Norham̄ & oibz de eodē com̄ salt Sciatis qđ concessim⁹ burgensibz nr̄is Norham̄ in auxiliū ville Norham̄ claudende ad securitatē & tuicionē ejusdē ville simul & parciū adjacenciū qđ capiat singlis septimanis semel usq in tres annos a die Natalis Dñi anno regni nr̄i nono de q̄libz carecta sive carro ejusdē com̄ Norham̄ ferente res venales in eandē villā Norham̄ ibide vendendas unū obolū & de q̄libz carecta sive carro alius com̄ ferente res venales in eandē villā ibide vendendas unū denar̄ & de quolibz sumagio rerū venaliū ibidem vendendarz pret⁹ de sumagio busch unū quatr̄ & de quolibz equo & eque & bove & vacca venali illuc ductis ad vendendū unū obol̄ & de decē ovibz v̄ capris v̄ porcibz venalibz illuc ductis ad vendendū unū denar̄ & de v ovibz v̄ capris v̄ porcibz unū obol̄ Ita tñ qđ occōe isti⁹ gcessiois fire de huj⁹modi carectis carris sumagiis eq⁹s eq⁹bz bobus vaccis ovibz capris v̄ porcibz nich capiat⁹ p̄t p̄dc̄m t̄minū spletū set stati spleto t̄mino illo cadat gsuetudo illa & penit⁹ aboleat⁹ Et idō t' vic p̄cipim⁹ qđ hāc gcessiōem nram clamari facias p totā bailiā tua & firmit̄ obs⁹vari usq ad t̄minū p̄dc̄m sic p̄dc̄m est T. me ipo ap Bracket xxiiij die Decem̄r anno eodē corā Justic̄.

Translation.

Concerning an aid to fortify the Town of Northampton.

The King to the Sheriff of Northampton and to all the men of the same County greeting Know ye that we have granted to our Burgesses of Northampton in aid of inclosing the Town of Northampton for the security and defence of the same town together with the parts adjacent that they may take once every week for three years only from the day of the Nativity of Our Lord Wednesday [25th December 1224] in the ninth year of our reign of every cart or vehicle of the said County of Northampton conveying saleable articles to the said Town of Northampton to be there sold one halfpenny and of every cart or vehicle of another county carrying saleable articles to the said town one penny and of every horse load of saleable articles except a load of one bushel one farthing and of every horse or mare ox and cow there taken for sale one halfpenny and of ten sheep or goats or pigs there taken for sale one penny and of five sheep or goats or pigs one halfpenny so nevertheless that by reason of this our grant there be from such like carts or vehicles horse loads horses mares oxen cows sheep goats or pigs nothing be taken after the aforesaid term ended but that as soon as this term be completed the said customs cease and be utterly abolished and therefore we command you the Sheriff that you do cause this our grant to be proclaimed and strictly observed throughout your bailiwick until the term aforesaid as is aforesaid Witness myself at Brackley [Northamptonshire] the 24th day of December the said year before the Justices.

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as :—

Rot: Pat: 9^{no} Hen. III. p. 2. m. 8

Charter of 11th Henry III.

16TH MARCH, 1227.

THIS charter, which is almost word for word the same as that granted by King John, is incorporated in the charter of the 27th Edward I.; and also in the other later charters which inspect, and incorporate the same.

The scribe of the *Liber Custumarum* copied the whole of the charter in Latin into that book commencing at folio 110b, hereinafter printed. There is also an early translation of the document in English, written in the same book commencing on folio 135a.

Translation of the Charter.

Henry by the Grace of God King of England Lord of Ireland Duke of Normandy Aquitain and Earl of Anjou To the Archbishops Bishops Abbots Priors Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Reeves Ministers and all his Bailiffs and faithful men Greeting Know ye that we have granted and by our present Charter confirmed to our Burgesses of Northampton that none of them plead without the walls of the Borough of Northampton of any plea except pleas of outholdings except our moneyers and ministers Also we have granted to them acquittance of murder within the Borough and in portsoken and that none of them make Duel and that of pleas appertaining to the Crown they may justify according to the custom of the Citizens of the City of London and that within the walls of the Borough no one take hostellage by force or by delivery of the Marshall And that all the Burgesses of Northampton be quit of toll and lastage through all England and the ports of the sea and that no one of amercement of money be adjudged but according to the law which our Citizens of London had in the time of King Henry our Grandfather And that in the same Borough there be in no plea miskenning And

that the Hustings be held only once in the week And that they justly have all their Lands and Holdings and their pledges and debts whomsoever owe to them And of their Lands and Holdings which are written the Borough right be kept to them according to the custom of the Borough and of all their debts which shall be lent at Northampton and of the pledges there made pleas be held at Northampton and if any one in all England shall take toll or custom from the men of Northampton after he shall have failed from right the Reeve of Northampton shall take distress thereof at Northampton Moreover also for the amendment of the same Borough we have granted to them that they be quit of brudtol and of childwite and of yeresjive and of scotale so that the Reeve of Northampton or any other Bailiff do not make scotale We have granted to them these the aforesaid customs and all other liberties and free customs which our Citizens of London had when they had them best or more freely in the time of the aforesaid King Henry our Grandfather according to the liberties of London and the Laws of the Borough of Northampton Wherefore we will and firmly command that they and their heirs all these things aforesaid have and hold hereditarily of us and our heirs rendering by the year one hundred and twenty pounds by tale for the Town of Northampton with all its appurtenances at our Exchequer at the Term of Saint Michael by the hands of the Reeve of Northampton and the Burgesses of Northampton shall make a Reeve whom they will of themselves by the year who may be proper for us and them with this only to wit that the aforesaid Burgesses by the Common Council of their Town may choose two of the more lawful and discreet Burgesses of their Town and present them by their letters patent to our Chief Justice at Westminster who shall well and faithfully keep the Reeveship of the Town of Northampton and they shall not be amoved so long as they well conduct themselves in their Bailiwick unless by the common council of their town Also we will that in the same Borough of Northampton by the common council of their Town there be chosen four of the more lawful and discreet men of the Borough to keep the pleas of our Crown and other things which pertain to us in the same Borough and to see that the Reeves of the same Borough justly and lawfully treat as well the poor as the rich as the Charter of the Lord King John our Father which they have reasonably witnesseth These being

witnesses The Venerable Father Jocelyn Bishop of Bath⁸⁶ R. Bishop of Salisbury⁸⁶ Hubert de Burgh Earl of Kent⁸⁷ our Justiciary William the son of Warrin⁸⁸ Ralph the son of Nicholas Richard de Argentine our Seneschal Henry de Capel and others. Given by the hand of the Venerable Father R. Bishop of Chichester⁸⁹ our Chancellor at Westminster the sixteenth day of March in the eleventh year of our reign.

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on parchment 11 inches wide and 13 inches deep. The writing is more regular, square, and upright than on the charter of Richard. The silk cord for the seal is worked through the lower side, but the seal itself has long since disappeared. It is endorsed:—

"16^o Marcij 11^o Hen. 3.

"Grant of Hen. 3d whereby several privileges are granted to the Burghesses of Northampton (reserving the yearly Rent of 120^o payable for the same) & particularly that they shall be free from Toll and Lastage throughout all England & the seaports."

"1226."

"2"

There is also a copy of this charter in Latin, written on parchment measuring 12½ inches wide by 9 inches deep, which was apparently made soon after the original. It is only indorsed in ink:—

"3"

⁸⁶ Jocelyn de Wells or Trotman was Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury in 1206; he was an exile from 1212 to 1217 for publishing interdict; and in 1218 when Glastonbury was restored to the Abbey, Jocelyn resumed the title of Bath and Wells. He died in 1242 and was buried in the Choir of Wells Cathedral.

⁸⁶ Richard Poore became Bishop of Salisbury in 1217, he founded the new Cathedral in 1220, and also a Hospital at Salisbury. He was translated to Durham in 1228, and died in 1237. He is said to have been buried at Salisbury.

⁸⁷ Hubert de Burgh the great grandson of William, 2nd Earl of Cornwall, was born before 1180. He was created Earl of Kent 11th February, 1227, was Justiciary of England from 1215 till 1232, and he died in 1243.

⁸⁸ William de Warenne the son of Hamelin Earl of Surrey and Warenne was born before 1181. He succeeded as 2nd Earl of Surrey and Warenne, and died in 1240.

⁸⁹ Ralph Neville became Bishop of Chichester in 1223; he was Chancellor of England, and he built Lincoln's Inn in London, where he was buried in 1244.

Letters Patent of 36th Henry III.

26TH JANUARY, 1252.

BY these letters patent, the King granted the good men of Northampton leave to levy tolls on animals and articles sold in the town, and apply the proceeds towards inclosing the same. It is similar in character to the previous grant of the 9th Henry III., printed hereinbefore on page 36, but is directed to the mayor and burgesses in lieu of the sheriff.

Text of these Letters Patent.

Villa Norhampton Claudenda.

R^e Maiori Burgensibz ac aliis p^bis hominibz quis Norhampton salm Sciatis qd concedim⁹ nob in auxilium uille vre de Norhⁱ claudenda qd in eade villa capiatis ad emendatoem muroz eiusdem uille de qualibet carecta ferente buscam uenate vn^u q^r D carecta carecta blado uenali vnum o^b D quolibz summagio busce p ebomodam vnum o^b D quolibet summagio si muni p ebdomodam vn^u o^b D quelibz equo & equa boua & uacca vn^u o^b D quolibz trussell pannoz venal ducto sup carectam ii den^o D quelibz bullione cordubam venal ii den^o D quolibz corio equi & eque bouis & uacce tannato vn^u q^r D qualibz carecta carcata pisce marino iiii den^o D quolibz summagio piscis marini i den^o D quolibz summag⁹ pannoz uenal i den^o D qualibz carecta carnibz falsis uenalibz ii den^o D quolibz dol vn^u Cin^oium unal uendente in eande villam al cⁿsennte p eande ii den^o D quolibz sacco lane venal iiii den^o D q^rlibz coreo equi & eque bouis & uacce & n^o tannato vn^u q^r D x ouibz cape & porcis uenditis vn^u den^o D x pellibz oum lanacis & uenditis viii den^o D q^rlibz balello carcata m^ocandis uenalibz ad p^rdcam uillam uenientibz vn^u o^b D quolibz an^oio pond^{is} selie de centena vnu den^o D quolibz assisa weyde venditi vn^u den^o

D quolibz alco fal uendle vnum ob D duobz milibz cepe venditis vnū q^a D quolibz q^a reid bladi ducto p aq^m & vendito vnū q^a D quolibz millenario allecis vnū ob D q^{libz} summa allij venditi vnū ob D qualibz cencena bordi vend q den de q^{libz} cencena de lacis venditis vnū q^a D quolibz carro & carecta vendita viii ob D qualibz mola vendita vnū den D q^{libz} peca silau vnū ob In Cui⁹ duratura a sexto pasch anno &c. xxxvi p duos annos sequentes T R apd Selueston xxvi die Jan p R

Translation.

For inclosing the Town of Northampton.

The King to his Mayor Burgesses and other his good men of Northampton greeting Know ye that we have granted to you in aid of inclosing your town of Northampton that ye do take in the same town for the amendment of the walls thereof of every cart carrying brushwood for sale one farthing of every cart load of corn for sale one halfpenny of every horse load of brushwood by the week one halfpenny of every horse load of straw by the week one halfpenny of every horse and mare ox and cow sold one halfpenny of every truss of cloth conveyed by cart for sale two pence of every weight of Cordulean leather for sale two pence of every tanned hide of horse and mare ox and cow one farthing of every cart laden with sea fish four pence of every horse load of sea fish one penny of every horse load of cloths for sale one penny of every cart laden with salt meat for sale two pence of every cask of ashes or wine coming to the said town for sale or passing through the same two pence of every sack of wool for sale four pence of every untanned hide of horse and mare ox and cow one farthing of ten sheep goats and pigs sold one penny of ten sheep skins tanned and sold one penny of every boat coming to the said town laden with merchandize for sale one halfpenny of every hundred weight one penny of every size of wood sold one penny of every boat load of salt for sale one halfpenny of two thousand onions sold one farthing of every quarter of corn conveyed by water and sold one farthing of every thousand of herrings one halfpenny of every load of garlick sold one halfpenny of every hundred of boards sold one penny of every hundred of buckets sold one farthing of every car and cart sold one halfpenny of every millstone sold one penny of every stone of flax one half-

penny In testimony whereof &c to continue from the Feast of Easter in the 36th year for two years following Witness the King at Silveston⁹⁰ the 26th day of January By the King.

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot. Pat. 36th Hen. III. m. 12.

⁹⁰ There was anciently a royal mansion house within the liberties of Silverston, Northamptonshire. Many of the Plantagenet Kings resided at this lodge, but even when Bridges wrote all traditions of the building had passed away.

Charter of 39th Henry III.

7TH APRIL, 1255.

BY this charter the King granted to the burgesses that neither they nor their goods should be arrested for any debts except such as they were principals or sureties for: and all persons were prohibited from depriving the burgesses of this privilege, under pain of forfeiting ten pounds.

Text of the Charter.

Henricus dei grā Rex Angl Dūx Hibn Dux Normānu Aquitan
& Comes Andeg Archiepis Epis Abbatibz Prioribz Comitibz
Baronibz Justiciar Vicecomitibz Prepositis Ministris omnibz Balliis
& fidelibz suis Salm Sciatis nos concessisse & hac carta nra
confirmasse Ditis Burgenibz nris Norhampton qd Ipi & eor
heredes Im ppoum p totam fram & potestatem nram habeant hanc
libtatem videlicet qd Ipi uel eoz bona quocumqz locos in potestate
nra inuenta non arestent pro aliquo debito de quo fide inflores aut
principales debitores non extiterint nisi forte ipi debitores de eoz
sint comuna & potestate habentes unde de debitis suis in toto uel
in parte satisfacc⁹e possint & dei Burgenes creditoribz Eozdem
debitoribz in iusticia defuerint & de hoc ronabili⁹ constare possit
Quare volumus & firmit⁹ pcepim⁹ pro nob & heredibz nris qd
predci Burgenes & eoz heredes imppetum p totam fram &
potestatem nram habeant libtatem predcam sicut predcm est Et
prohibemus sup forisfeuram nram decem libraz ne quis eos cont
libtatem predcam in aliquo iniuste vexet disturbet uel inquietet
Hiis Testibz Johes de Pleffetis comite Warewik Radu fil Nichi
Arcaldo de sco Romano Drogon de Barreniin Wille de Grey
Waukelino de Ardcrii Wille Gernun Petro Euerard & Aliis Data
p manu nram apud Windes septimo die April Anno regni nri
tricesimo nono.

Translation.

Henry by the grace of God King of England Lord of Ireland Duke of Normandy Aquitaine and Earl of Anjou To the Archbishops Bishops Abbots Priors Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Reeves Ministers and all his Bailiffs and faithful men Greeting Know ye that we have granted and by this our Charter confirmed to our beloved Burgesses of Northampton that they and their heirs for ever by all our land and power may have this liberty to wit—that they or their goods found in any places whatsoever in our power be not arrested for any debt of which they shall not be sureties or principal debtors unless it happens that the same debtors be of their community and power having whereof they may make satisfaction of their debts in the whole or in part and unless the said Burgesses fail in justice to the creditors of the same debts and this reasonably appears Wherefore we will and firmly command for us and our heirs that the aforesaid Burgesses and their heirs for ever by all our land and power have the liberty aforesaid as is aforesaid And we prohibit upon forfeiture to us of ten pounds that any one against the liberty aforesaid in any thing unjustly vex disturb or disquiet them These being witness John de Plessetis Earl of Warwick¹ Ralph the son of Nicholas Arcald de Saint Roman Drogone de Barrentine William de Grey Wakeline de Arden William German Peter Everard and others Given by our hand at Windsor the seventh day of April in the thirty ninth year of our reign.

This charter, which is with the borough muniments, is written in Latin on plain parchment $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. The writing is upright, regular and unornamented. It has silk worked through the lower fold to carry the seal, which does not now exist.

It is indorsed:—

"7^a Aprilis 39^o Hen. 3^u

A Grant of Hen: 3^d to the Burgeses of Northampton"

"4"

¹ John de Plessetis or Plessis was the son of Hugh de Plessis, Earl of Warwick, and was born before 1214. He was admitted as Earl of Warwick in 1245 in right of his wife, Margaret de Neubourg, Countess of Warwick. He died in 1236.

Charter of 41st Henry III.

18TH JANUARY, 1257.

THIS charter contains new and additional privileges. That the burgesses were to have returns of writs of all things affecting the borough, that the sheriff should not take distress in the borough, that the burgesses should have the right to judge thieves taken in the borough, that strangers should not be joined with burgesses in actions, that strange merchants should not dwell in the town in fair time without the leave of the burgesses, and that burgesses dying in any part of the kingdom their heirs should have their goods. And the previous grants were all confirmed by the King.

The scribe of the *Liber Custumarum* copied the whole of the charter in Latin into that book, commencing at folio 106a. hereinafter printed. There is also an early translation of the document in English, written in the same book, commencing on folio 135a.

Translation of the Charter.

Henry by the grace of God King of England Lord of Ireland Duke of Normandy Aquitaine and Earl of Anjou To the Archbishops Bishops Abbots Priors Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Reeves Ministers and all his Bailiffs and faithful men Greeting Know ye that we have granted and by this our Charter confirmed to our Burgesses of Northampton that they and their heirs for ever may have return of all our writs as well of Summonses of our Exchequer as of other things touching the Borough aforesaid and the liberty of the same Borough And that they may answer by their hands at our Exchequer of all debts summonses and demands touching the same so that no Sheriff or other our Bailiff or Minister hereafter enter the aforesaid Borough to make any distresses summonses or other things which to their office

pertain unless by default of the same Burgesses or their heirs And that they may have infangthef⁸² and that none of them be impleaded without the walls of the Borough of Northampton unless of pleas of outholdings or for any trespass committed in the same Borough unless upon any matter touching our right or our person And that the said Burgesses shall not be joined by any foreigners upon any appeals rights injuries trespasses crimes challenges or demands charged or to be charged to them but only by their co-burgesses unless for any thing touching the community of the aforesaid Borough And then in that case they shall be tried according to their liberties approved and hitherto used And that no merchant at the time of the fairs of the same Borough dwell in the same Borough with his merchandize unless with the license and will of the Bailiffs of the same Borough as it ought and hath been accustomed to be done in the times of our predecessors Kings of England and of our own and that they may make distress within the Borough aforesaid for their debts as hitherto it ought and hath been accustomed to be done Also we have granted to them that if any of them wheresoever in our Kingdom shall die testate or intestate their heirs shall fully have the goods of the same deceased so far as the said heirs can reasonably shew the same goods to have belonged to the said deceased And that they or their goods shall not be arrested anywhere in our Kingdom nor shall they lose their goods for any trespass of their servants and that they may use the liberties aforesaid contained within our Charter whensoever they will although at any time they have not used the same Also we grant to them that they and their heirs may have all the liberties before granted to them by our Charter and by the Charters of our predecessors Kings of England as reasonably hitherto they have used the same Wherefore we will and firmly command for us and our heirs that the aforesaid Burgesses and their heirs for ever have the liberties aforesaid and we prohibit upon forfeiture to us that any one against this our Grant in any thing disturb or molest them These being Witnesses Geoffrey de Lezan⁸³ and William de

⁸² Infangthef was the liberty granted to the lord of a manor to judge thieves taken within his manor.

⁸³ Geoffrey Fitz-Roy, a natural son of King John and half brother of King Henry III

Valence⁹⁴ our brothers Henry de Bath Philip Lovell Master John Mansell William de Grey Walter de Merton Nicholas de Saint Maur Walkeline de Ardern Peter Everard and others Given by our hand at Westminster the eighteenth day of January in the forty first year of our reign.

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment 13½ inches wide and 7½ inches deep. The writing is slightly ornamented, the initial letters are plain, the initial letter H only being slightly ornamented with foliated work. A small portion of the great seal of England remains attached to the silk cord.

On the back is written:—

"18^o Januarij 111^o Hen: 3^o."

"Grant of Hen: 3^d wher by amongst other priviledges is granted to the Burgeses of Northampton the Return of all writs within the Libertys of the Town the Sherriff of the County & his officers being prohibited from doing any Act appertaining to their office within the Libertys"

"5"

⁹⁴ William de Valence, half brother of King Henry III., was created Earl of Pembroke before Sept., 1251. He was a crusader and Guardian and Lieutenant of England in 1285. He died 13th June, 1296.

Letters Patent of 52nd Henry III.

6TH MAY, 1268.

IMMEDIATELY after the last charter was granted to the town in 1257, the Barons' war commenced. This civil war was terminated by the decisive battle of Evesham in 1265, at which Simon de Montfort and the barons were defeated. After the country became settled the King, according to his wont, granted new charters; and probably by this means obtained a little money for his last crusade in 1270. This grant simply confirmed all the charters previously given to the burgesses by the Kings of England.

Text of these Letters Patent.

Henricus dei gr̃a Rex Angl dom Hib̃n & Dux Aguñ omibz Balliuis & fidelibz eius ad quos presentes littere pueneruñ salt. Cum dit̃i nobis maior & burgenſes ñri Norham̃pt habeant quasdam libertatis p cartas predecessoz nroz regum Angl & nras ac ipi pp̃t impedimentū guerre nup in regno ñro habite eisdem libertatibz usi sint minus plene nos eisdem gr̃am facere volentes sp̃alem concedimus eis qđ licet pp̃t impedimentum guerre pred̃e aliquibz articlis in dc̃is cartis contentis hucusq; vsi non fuerint ad plenū eisdem nichomin⁹ decesso vtant̃. sedm̃ qđ in pred̃is cartis plenius continent̃. Concessimus eciam eisdem qđ firmam suam eiusdem ville soluere possint ad sc̃ciū ñm eodem modo & ad eōsde t̃minos ad quos firmam illam reddere consuerernt juxta tenorem cartaz ñraz quas inde habent et villam sua quam dudum capi fecimus in manū ñram reddidim⁹ eisdem. Concessim⁹ insup eiōd maiori & burgeñsibz qđ ipi non distringant̃ pro aliquo debito de quo fideiussores aut p̃ncipales debitores non existunt. Et idō vōb mandamus qđ pred̃cos maiorem & burgenſes contra concessiones ñras pred̃cās non vexetis in aliquo seu greuetis. In cuius rei testimo⁹ has litt̃as ñras fieri fecimus

pacentef. Teste me ipō apud Windesoꝝ . sexto die maij Anno regni nri gng^r gesimo scdō.

Indorsed.

Ista carta lecta fuit eid
Eccm̄ anno VV & ibid
vrē de mannend carta
posuca fuit in liacia
Marescalcia mīd anni

Translation.

Henry by the grace of God King of England Lord of Ireland and Duke of Aquitain to all his Bailiffs and faithful men to whom the present letters shall come Greeting Whereas our beloved our Mayor and Burgesses of Northampton have certain liberties by the charters of our predecessors Kings of England and our own And they by reason of the impediment of the war lately had in our kingdom the same liberties have not fully used We willing to do to them special favour Grant to them that although on account of the impediment of the war aforesaid hitherto they have not fully used any Articles in the said Charters contained Nevertheless hereafter they may use the same according to that which in the aforesaid Charters is more fully contained Also we have granted to them that they may pay their farm of the same Town at our Exchequer in the same manner and at the same Terms at which they have been accustomed to render the same farm according to the tenor of our Charters which they have thereof and their Town which formerly we caused to be taken into our hands we have restored to them Moreover we have granted to the same Mayor and Burgesses that they shall not be distrained for any debt of which they are not Sureties nor principal Debtors And therefore we command you that the aforesaid Mayor and Burgesses against our grants aforesaid you do not in any thing vex or aggrieve In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness myself at Windsor the sixth day of May in the fifty second year of our reign

Indorsed.

This Charter was read at the Exchequer in the fifty fifth year and there a writ for maintaining the Charter was placed upon the file of the Marshalsea of the same year

This document, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep; the writing is small and regular, but without any attempt at ornamentation. A small portion of the great seal of England remains attached to the silk cord.

On the back is written:—

"6^o Maij 52^o Hen: 3^u

"A grant of Hen: 3^d to the Mayor and Burgeses of Northampton."

"Hen. 3."

"6"

A copy also exists in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot: Pat: 52^{da} Hen. III. m. 17.

Letters Patent of 52nd Henry III.

6TH MAY, 1268.

THIS grant, which bears the same date as the previous one, is a general pardon to the Mayor and men of Northampton for their share in the rebellion as before mentioned, on condition that they should behave themselves well in the future.

Text of these Letters Patent.

Henricus dei gr̃a Rex Angl̃ Duš Hib̃n & Dux Agun' omnib; Balliuis & fidelibus suis ad quos p̃sentes littere puenerint salt. Volentes maiori & probis Hominib; ũris Norhampt̃ gr̃am facere spatem remisimus & pdonamiu' eisdem & toti cōminati ville eiusdem omēni indignātoem & animi rancorem quos erga ip̃os conceperamus occasione decentonis ville ñre Norhampton cont nos & captonis eiusdem & etiam occasione transgressūs huiusmodi quicum in nobis est similiter perdonamus & ip̃os ad gr̃am & patem ñram admissimus nolentes qđ ip̃i p nos heredes nros Justiciarios balliuos seu alios ministros nros occasione predia deceio gr̃a uent in aliquo

seu molestant. Ita in qđ stent recto in curia nra si gius de
 tngressionibz aliquibz nersus eos loqui voluerit & erga nos &
 heredes nrōs bene & fidelit' se habeant in futurum. In cuius rei
 testim has littas nrās fieri fecimus p atntes. Teste me ipo apud
 Windes sexto die Maij Anno regni nri ġnġ gesimo secundo

Translation.

Henry by the grace of God King of England Duke of Ireland
 and Duke of Aquitain to all his Bailiffs and faithful men to whom
 these present letters shall come greeting We desire to make
 special remission and pardon to the Mayor and honest men of
 our Town of Northampton and to the whole of the commonalty of
 the same town of all indignation and rancor of mind which we had
 conceived against them on the occasion of the detention of our
 Town of Northampton against us and the taking of the same and
 also by occasion of trespasses and excesses if they shall have
 committed any at the time of the disturbances in our Kingdom
 and we likewise as much as is in us have pardoned them those
 trespasses and excesses and have admitted them to our grace and
 peace Not willing that they nor their heirs by us our Justiciaries
 Bailiffs and other Ministers of ours by occasion aforesaid shall be
 oppressed or molested So nevertheless that they shall stand
 to judgement in our Court if anyone shall wish to speak against
 them concerning the aforesaid transgressions and that they shall
 behave themselves well and faithfully to us in future In testimony
 whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent
 Witness myself at Windsor the 6th day of May in the fifty second
 year of our reign

This document, which is with the muniments of the borough, is
 written in Latin on plain parchment $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide and 5 inches
 deep. Attached to the silk cord is a portion of the great seal of
 England in green wax.

On the back is written:—

" Hen. 3.
 " pardon "

" 7 "

Letters Patent of 54th Henry III.

15TH MARCH, 1270.

BY virtue of this grant the burgesses were enabled to keep their dogs in the town and suburbs without expeditating or lawing⁹⁶ them: a privilege much appreciated.

In the *Liber Custumarum*, folio 31 b., a provision will be found for dogs to be kept in a leash whilst in the town unless they were quiet.

Text of these Letters Patent.

P. Burgenſib; Norht.

R̄ omnib; &c. Sal̄m. Cum Burgenſes n̄ri Norh̄pt ab antiquo quiet⁹ eſſe conſuev⁹int de expeditacōe Canū ſuoꝝ tam in Suburbio eiufdem qm̄ inf^a eandem villam volentes eiſdem Burgenſib; grām facere ſpecialeſ concedimus eis p̄ nō & h̄res qđ ipi Burgenſes & eoꝝ homines impetuū ſint quiti de expeditacōe canū ſuoꝝ tam in Suburbio pred̄cē ville q^a infra eandem villam Ed qđ quieti ſunt de fine et miſericordia ſi que ad nos vel h̄des n̄ros racōe huiuſmodi expeditacōes poſſent ptin⁹e. In cui⁹ &c. T. R̄ apūd Weſtmōn xv die Marc.

Translation.

For the Burgesses of Northampton.

The King to all &c Greeting Since the burgesses of our town of Northampton have been used of old to walk freely with their dogs as well in the suburbs as within the town itself We willingly grant special permission to the said burgesses both for

⁹⁶ Under the Forest laws dogs were required to be expeditated or lawed by having the balls of their feet cut out, or in the case of a mastiff, the removal of the three claws of the forefoot on the right side, in order that it might be impossible for them to run game.

ourselves and heirs that the burgesses themselves and their men may for ever freely walk with their dogs both in the suburbs of the said town and within the town itself and that they may be held free from any fine or punishment that might pertain to us or our heirs by any such action In testimony &c Witness the King at Westminster the 15th day of March

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot: Pat: 54^{to} Hen. III., m. 19.

Letters Patent of 13th Edward I.

8TH MAY, 1284.

THIS grant is very much on the same lines as the previous grants of the 9th and 36th Henry III., hereinbefore printed. The King giving the burgesses leave to levy tolls on goods sold there for the term of two years, and to apply the proceeds towards paving the town.

Text of these Letters Patent.

D pauimento Northt.

Ry. majori & baillis suis Northt. Sciatis qđ concessim⁹ vob in auxiliū ville urē paviendo qđ a festo Sci Johis Bap̄i anno regni nr̄i lciodecimo usq; ad finem duoz annoz pxio sequenciū completoz capiatis in eadem villa consuetudiēs subscriptas videt de qualibet carectata bladi venat unū denā D qualibet carecta ferente piscem venalem unū deñ De quolibet trussello pannoꝝ venaliū ducto p carectam unū deñ De qualz carecta ferente coria equoz & equaz boū & vaccaꝝ p ebdomoñ unū deñ D quolibet dolio vini venat unū deñ D quobz sacco lane venat unū deñ D quobz sūmag panni seu aliatꝝ mꝝcandisaꝝ unū obolū De viginti ovibz ut porcis venat unū deñ De viginti velleribz venat unū obolū

D quoby corio equi vt eque bovis vt vacce Irisco salito aut tannato
 veñ unū quadrantem D centena pelliū oviū lanataz unū obolū.
 Et is vob mandam⁹ qđ đcam consuetudiēm usq; ad finē ĩmini pđci
 capiatīs sicut pđem est Completo autem ĩmino đcoz duoz annoz
 đca cons penit⁹ cesset & debeat⁹. In euj⁹ &c. T. R. Apud Westm̃
 viij. die Maij.

Translation.

Concerning Paviage for Northampton.

The King to his Mayor and Bailiffs of Northampton Greeting
 Know ye that we have granted to you in aid of paving your Town
 that ye may from the Feast of St. John the Baptist in the 13th
 year of our reign [29th August 1285] unto the end of two years
 next following to be completed take in the same town the customs
 underwritten namely of every cart load of corn for sale one penny
 of every cart conveying fish for sale one penny of every truss of
 cloth carried for sale by cart one penny of every cart carrying
 hides of horses and mares oxen and cows for sale by the week
 one penny of every cask of wine for sale one penny of every
 sack of wool for sale one penny of every load of cloth or other
 merchandizes one halfpenny of twenty sheep or pigs for sale one
 penny of twenty fleeces for sale one halfpenny of every hide of
 horse or mare ox or cow fresh salted or tanned for sale one
 farthing of a hundred of tanned sheep skins one halfpenny And
 therefore we do command you that ye do take the said customs
 unto the end of the aforesaid term as is aforesaid and that the
 term of the said two years being ended the said customs do
 wholly cease and be abolished In testimony whereof &c Witness
 the King at Westminster the 8th day of May

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough.
 The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in
 the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot: Pat: 13th Ed. I. m. 21.

Charter of 27th EdWard 1.

27TH MAY, 1299.

THIS inspecimus charter, which incorporates and confirms the charters of the 11th and 41st Henry III., gave the burgesses power to choose a mayor and two bailiffs every year.

The scribe of the *Liber Custumarum* copied the whole of this charter in Latin into that book, commencing at folio 105a, hereinafter printed. There is also an early translation of the document in English written in the same book, commencing on folio 135a.

Translation of the Charter.

[E]dward by the grace of God King of England and France Lord of Ireland and Duke of Aquitain to the Archbishops Bishops Abbots Priors Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Reeves Ministers and all his Bailiffs and faithful men Greeting We have inspected the charter which the Lord Henry of famous memory formerly King of England our father made to the Burgesses of Northampton in these words Henry by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 11th Henry III., 16th March, 1227, printed before at page 38.] Also we have inspected a certain other charter which our aforesaid Father likewise made to the Burgesses aforesaid in these words Henry by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 41st Henry III., 18th January, 1257, printed before at page 46.] And we the grants aforesaid holding firm and valid the same for us and our heirs as much as in us lies do grant and confirm to the aforesaid burgesses their heirs and other their successors burgesses of the same town for ever as the charters aforesaid reasonably testify Also we have granted for us and our heirs to the

burgesses aforesaid that they their heirs and successors aforesaid every year for ever at the Feast of Saint Michael may choose one Mayor and two Bailiffs of themselves and him whom they shall so choose as Mayor they shall present at our Exchequer within eight days of the same feast who then there shall take an oath of those things which pertain to the office of Mayoralty of the town aforesaid faithfully to be executed And which Mayor and Bailiffs shall hold and execute all pleas touching the liberty of the town aforesaid as by the Bailiffs of the same town in times past it hath been accustomed to be done These being witnesses The Venerable Fathers A Bishop of Durham⁹⁶ J Bishop of Winchester⁹⁷ S Bishop of Salisbury⁹⁸ Henry de Lacy Earl of Lincoln⁹⁹ Guy Earl of Warwick¹⁰⁰ Otto de Grandison Walter de Beauchamp Steward of our Household William le Brown Peter de Tatynton and others Given by our hand at Canterbury the 27th day of May in the twenty-seventh year of our reign.

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment, 19 inches wide, and 17½ inches deep, the writing is unornamented, and though a space has been left for the first letter of Edwardus it has never been filled in. Almost the whole of the great seal of England remains attached to the silk cords.

⁹⁶ Anthony Bek, Patriarch of Jerusalem, was Bishop of Durham in 1284. He greatly enlarged Auckland Castle, Bernard Castle, and other places. He died in 1311.

⁹⁷ John de Pontissard became Bishop of Winchester in 1280. He founded the college of St. Mary of Hungary, in Winchester. He died in 1305, and was buried at Winchester.

⁹⁸ Simon of Ghent became Bishop of Salisbury in 1297, and gave citizens licence to fortify that city with wall and ditch. According to Leland he was a prelate of considerable learning. He died in 1315.

⁹⁹ Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln and Salisbury, was born about 1250. He occupied many important posts in England, being in 1310 Guardian and Lieutenant of England. He was twice married, and died in 1311. The earl was "Strenuus in militiâ, maturus in consiliis."

¹⁰⁰ Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and a Lord Marcher of Wales, was born in 1270. He was knighted by the King on the 25th March, 1296, and succeeded as second Earl of Warwick in 1298. He died in 1315. He was said to have been "miles severissimus."

On the back is written:—

"27^o Maij 27^o Edri j^m"

"This Charter of Edw^d the first whereby two Charters of Henry
"3^d are confirmed & fresh priviledges granted (viz) That the
"Burgefses of Northampton for the future shall elect a Mayor &
"2 Bailiffs annually at the feast of St. Michael."

"8"

Letters Patent of 20th Edward 1.

4TH OCTOBER, 1301.

THIS grant is similar to, but more extensive than, the previous grant of 9th Henry III., and also for a longer term.

Text of these Letters Patent.

Muragium Norhampton.

R^y. majori battis & pbis hōib; ville sue Norhampton saltm
Sciatis qđ concessims⁹ vo^b in auxiliū ville p^dce claudende ad securi-
tatem & tuicoēm ejusdē ville & pcūi adjacenciū qđ a die confecōis
p^senciū usq; ad finem quinq; annoz p^xio sequenciū completoz
capiatis in eadem villa consuetudines subsēptas videt de quolibet
sūmagio bladi veñ cuj⁹cumq; gen⁹is sit aut brasei unū quadr' De
quolibet equo & equa bove & vacca veñ unū obolū De quolibet
corio equi & eque bovis & vacce frisco salito aut tannato veñ unū
quadr' De quinq; baconib; veñ unū obolū De decem p^vis veñ unū
obolū De decem ovib; cap^s & porcis veñ unū deñ De decem
vellerib; veñ unū obolū De qualibet centena pelliū oviū lanutaz
& cap^z veñ unū deñ De qualibet centena pelliū agnoz cap⁹oloz
lepoz cuniculoz vulpiū catoz & squirrelloz veñ unū obolū De
qualibet centena grisei op^s veñ sex deñ De quolibet q^rtio salis
veñ unū quadr' De quolibet sumagio panni veñ unū obolū De
quolibet panno integro vend^r valoris q^radraginta solid^r unū obolū
De quolibet trussello panno^z veñ ducto p⁹ carectam tres deñ De

qualibet centena pannoꝝ de Wurthstede veñ duos deñ De quolibet panno de wurthstede qui vocat^r coverlit valoris quadraginta solid^ũ veñ unū deñ De qualibet centena linee tele vend^ũ unū obolū De qualibet centena linee tele de Aylesham veñ unū deñ De quolibet chef de cendallo afforciato veñ unū deñ & de alio cendallo unū obolū De q^libet centena milvelli saliti aut duri piscis veñ duos deñ De q^libet carectata piscis marini vend^ũ quatuor deñ De quolibet sūmagio piscis marini vend^ũ unū obolū De quolibet salmone veñ unū quadr^ũ De q^libet duodena lampredaꝝ veñ unū deñ De quolibet dolio de sturjoun veñ unū obolū De quolibet miliari allecis veñ unū quadr^ũ De quolibet sūmagio cin^ũum veñ unū obolū De q^libet sūmagio mett^ũ veñ unū denar^ũ de quolibet sacco lane veñ duos deñ De qualibet carectata tanni veñ p ebdomodam unū deñ De av^oio ponderis scilt de centena unū deñ De quolibet pisa cepi & uncti veñ unū den De quolibet q^ũtr^ũ waide veñ duoꝝ deñ De duoꝝ miliaribꝫ allei aut cepax veñ unū obolū de qualibet bala cordewanni veñ tres deñ De qualibet centena bordi veñ unū obolū De qualibet mola veñ unū obolū De qualibet centena fagotoꝝ veñ unū quadr^ũ De qualibet carectata busce aut maeremij veñ p ebdomodam unū obolū De qualibet centena stagni eris & cupri veñ duos deñ De quolibet truifello cujuscuqꝫ m^ocimonij veñ excedentis valorem decem solidos unū obolū De quolibet dolio vini veñ tres obolos De quolibet m^ocandisa veñ hic nō nōiata valoris q^ũnqꝫ solidox & ult^ũ unū quadr^ũ Et ideo voꝝ mandam^ũ qđ p^odcāsconsuetudines usqꝫ ad finem p^odcōꝝ quqꝫ annoꝝ capiatis sicut p^odcā est completo aute īmino illo dēe consuetudines penit^ũ cessent & deleant^ũ In cuj^ũ &c p^o p^odcōs quinꝫ annos duratur^ũ T R apud Donepas iiij Octobr p billam de scis

Translation.

Concerning Murage for the town of Northampton.

The King to the Mayor Bailiffs and good men of his town of Northampton Greeting Know ye that we have granted to you in aid of inclosing the aforesaid town for the security and defence of the same town and of the parts adjacent that ye may from the day of the making of these presents to the end of five years next following to be completed take in the same town the customs underwritten namely for every horse load of corn for sale of whatsoever kind it be or of barley one farthing for every horse and

mare ox and cow for sale one halfpenny for every hide of horse and mare ox and cow fresh salted or tanned for sale one farthing for five hogs for sale one halfpenny for ten little hogs for sale one halfpenny for ten sheep goats and pigs for sale one penny for ten fleeces for sale one halfpenny for ever hundred of tanned skins of sheep and goats for sale one penny for every hundred of skins of lambs kids hares rabbits foxes cats and squirrels for sale one halfpenny for every hundred of greywerk for sale sixpence for every quarter of salt for sale one farthing for every horse load of cloth for sale one halfpenny for every entire cloth for sale of the value of forty shillings one halfpenny for every truss of cloth for sale conveyed by a cart three pence for every hundred of cloths of worsted for sale two pence for every cloth of worsted called coverlet of the value of forty shillings for sale one penny for every hundred of linen for sale one halfpenny for every hundred of linen of Aylesham for sale one penny for every piece of thin silk worked for sale one penny and for other thin silk one halfpenny for every hundred of salt mullet or hard fish for sale two pence for every cart load of sea fish for sale one halfpenny for every salmon for sale one farthing for every dozen of lampreys for sale one penny for every cask of sturgeon for sale one halfpenny for every thousand of herrings for sale one farthing for every horse load of ashes for sale one halfpenny for every horse load of honey for sale one farthing for every sack of wool for sale two pence for every cart load of tan by the week one penny for ox cart load or hundred weight one penny for every stone of fat and tallow for sale one penny for every quarter of wood for sale two pence for two thousand of garlick or onions for sale one halfpenny for every bale of prepared leather for sale three pence for every hundred of boards for sale one halfpenny for every millstone for sale one halfpenny for every hundred of faggots for sale one farthing for every cart load of brushwood or timber for sale by the week one halfpenny for every hundred-weight of tin brass and copper for sale twopence for every truss of whatsoever merchandize for sale exceeding the value of ten shillings one halfpenny of every cask of wine for sale three half-pence for every merchandize for sale not here mentioned of the value of five shillings and upwards one farthing And therefore we do command you that ye do take the aforesaid customs unto the end of the aforesaid five years as is aforesaid and that the said term being ended the said customs do utterly cease and be abolished

In testimony whereof &c. to continue for the aforesaid five years
Witness the King at Donypas the 4th day of October

By Bill of the Exchequer

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the Borough.
The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in
the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot: Pat: 29^{no} Ed. I. m. 6.

Pleas of the Crown.

3RD EDWARD III.

1330.

THIS presentment against the bailiffs of Northampton for taking unlawful tolls is here printed, because it contains the names of many of the inhabitants of the town; and also because it shows how causes were tried by the King's justiciaries, and how the sheriff was made responsible for the appearance of the defendants.

Translation.

Pleas of the Crown holden at Northampton before Geoffry le Scrop Lambert de Packingham John de Cambridge Thomas de Luthe and Thomas de Radeclive the Justices itinerant of our Lord the King there on the Monday next after the Feast of All Saints in the 3rd year of the reign of King Edward the Third after the Conquest. [Monday 5th Nov 1330]

The Jury present that John Hohecote Henry de Helidon¹⁰¹ Adam de Cotesbroke¹⁰² Henry Roger and Pentecost le Deystere

¹⁰¹ Henry de Helidon, Hellyden, or Helyden, was one of the members for Northampton, at the parliaments held at York in 6th Edward III., and again at York the next year.

¹⁰² Adam de Cotesbroke was one of the members for the town at the parliaments held at Westminster in 6th Edward II., at New Sarum in 2nd Edward III., at Westminster again in 6th Edward III.

the Bailiffs of the Town of Northampton take by extortion from all persons coming to the Town of Northampton to sell straw trusses of straw to cover the Kingsbroth against Fair times as well within fair times as without And that the said John Henry Adam Henry and Pentecost take unjust Tolls at all times of the year from all persons buying or selling cattle whereas nothing used to be taken out of fair time and then from dealers only and not from those who bought cattle for stock And they took from Thomas de Skalford who sold one ox a penny likewise from the purchaser thereof they took toll to the great oppression of the people

Therefore let the Sheriff be commanded that he do cause them to come &c Afterwards came the aforesaid John de Hochecote and Adam de Cotesbroke and could not deny. the aforesaid trespasses presented against them and made fine with the Lord the King for all trespasses against them presented each of them at half a mark &c as appeareth amongst the presentments of the township of Northampton &c Afterwards came the aforesaid Henry Henry and Pentecost and made fine for all trespasses &c as appeareth amongst the presentments of Northampton.

This record is not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as :—

Pleas of the Crown in the County of Northampton a^o. 3. Ed. III.

Translation.

Pleas of the Crown holden at Northampton before Geoffry le Scrop Lambert de Packingham John de Cambridge Thomas de Luthe and Thomas de Radeclive the Justices itinerant of our Lord the King there on the Monday next after the Feast of All Saints in the 3rd year of the reign of King Edward the Third after the Conquest Concerning new Customs &c The Jury present that Henry Roger and other Bailiffs of the Town of Northampton have newly levied a certain new custom in the Town of Slipton¹⁰⁸ which is fifteen miles distant from the aforesaid Town of Northampton namely of taking from every cart laden with wool wax and other merchandizes or goods whatsoever there passing one penny and from every horse load one

¹⁰⁸ Slipton, a small Northamptonshire village, situate three miles from Thrapston, and six miles from Kettering.

farthing to great oppression of the people &c they know not by what warrant &c Afterwards came the aforesaid Bailiffs and many others of the Commonalty of the aforesaid Town and they say that the custom whereof mention is made in the presentment is a toll pertaining to the Farm of the King's Town of Northampton and that the Lord the King Henry great grandfather of the Lord the now King during the time whilst the Town of Northampton was in his hands was seised of such like toll to be there taken and likewise the said Bailiffs from the time when they took the aforesaid Town at farm And they say that they receive the aforesaid Tolls at Slipton which pertain to the aforesaid Farm from carts and laden horses which ought to pass with their merchandizes through the Town of Northampton for which they ought to take Toll in the Town of Northampton and not otherwise and they pray that these things' may be enquired of by the County And one William de Tichmerch saith for the King's people that the aforesaid Bailiffs receive there by their servants thereunto deputed the aforesaid new custom from all carts and laden horses as well of the neighbours there passing towards Leicester or Rothwell or elsewhere to the north parts and likewise of those passing there towards the south with their corn and other things whatsoever as of those passing there with merchandizes And this he offers to prove &c Therefore let a Jury thereupon come And the Jury say upon their oath that the aforesaid Henry Roger and other the Bailiffs of the Town of Northampton have during their times by their servants taken the aforesaid customs from the carts and laden horses as well of the neighbours as of strangers there passing with their goods and merchandizes at the will of the said servants Therefore the said Henry is in mercy And it is commanded to the said Bailiffs that they do in no wise take the aforesaid customs from the neighbours or others there passing but only from those who avoid the aforesaid Town of Northampton to evade the custom or toll of right due by reason of the liberty of the aforesaid Town on peril that shall ensue thereon.

This record is not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where is referred to as:—

Pleas of the Crown in the County of Northampton a^c 3 Ed. III.

Letters Patent of 3rd Edward III.

8TH DECEMBER, 1330.

THIS document contains the first appointment of a custos of the town of Northampton.

Translation.

Grant concerning the custody of the Town of Northampton.

The King to his beloved and trusty Robert de Ardern¹⁰⁴
Greeting We fully confiding in your fidelity and industry have committed to you the custody of our Town of Northampton and of the Liberty thereof which by the consideration of our Court before our Justices Itinerant in our County of Northampton hath been taken into our hands to hold so long as it shall please us So that ye do depute under you Bailiffs and other ministers for the custody aforesaid who shall answer as they ought as well to us for the profits thence arising as to Isabel Queen of England our most dear mother for the Farm of the same town which she hath received by our appointment And therefore we command you that ye be intendant to execute the premises in form aforesaid and we do command the good men and commonalty of the aforesaid town that they be to you attendant and respondent concerning the premises In testimony &c Witness the King at Kenilworth the 8th day of December By the King himself

For Robert de Ardern

The King to his beloved the good men and all the commonalty of the town of Northampton Whereas we having full trust in the fidelity and industry of our beloved and trusty Robert de Ardern have granted to him the custody of our aforesaid town and of the liberty thereof which by the consideration of our Court before our

¹⁰⁴ This was probably the Robert de Ardern who was sheriff of the county in 1329-30, and lord of the manor of Radston, Northamptonshire, in 1329.

Justices itinerant in the County of Northampton hath been taken into our hand to hold so long as it shall please us So that he do depute under him bailiffs and other ministers for the custody aforesaid who shall answer as they ought as well to us for the profits thence accruing as to Queen Isabel our most dear mother for the Farm of our same town which she hath received by our appointment We do command you that ye be to the said Robert obedient and respondent Witness as above

By the King himself

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Originalia of 3rd Edward III. in the Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer's Office.

Letters Patent of 9th Edward III.

20TH APRIL, 1335.

THIS document contains the first allusion that we have noticed to the south bridge at Northampton, an important structure, without the walls of the town, on the London road.

Translation.

Pontage for the men of the town of Northampton.

The good men of the town of Northampton have for the reparation and amendment of the bridge which leads over river Nen without the south gate of the same town which is in a great measure dilapidated and gone to decay a like subsidy on articles coming to Northampton for sale to be taken for three years by the hands of William de Lodelowe¹⁰⁵ Walter de Burgh¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁵ William de Lodelowe was one of the representatives of the town of Northampton at the parliament held at Westminster in 11th Ed. III. He was also master of the hospital of Saint Leonard in 1346.

¹⁰⁶ A Walter de Burgh was one of the representatives of the town of Northampton at ten parliaments, between the years 1308 and 1358, probably father and son.

and William de Burgh¹⁰⁷ of Northampton and of every of them &c. excepting the clause "by view and testimony &c." Witness the King at Clipston in Sherwood the 20th day of April

By writ of the privy seal.

This grant immediately follows one of the 12th April to the good men of Nottingham enabling them to levy toll on animals and all manner of specified articles sold in the town of Nottingham and apply the proceeds for the reparation of the bridge of Hethebeck over river Trent under the view and testimony of three burgesses therein named.

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot. Pat. 9^{mo}. Ed. III., p. 1. m. 24.

Charter of 11th Edward III.

18TH MARCH, 1337.

THIS grant of a fair was a most important concession to the corporation of Northampton, giving them the right to hold a fair, and to take tolls on all articles sold during the space of four weeks.

Translation.

For the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton to have liberty to hold a Fair.

¹⁰⁷ William de Burgh was also one of the representatives of the town of Northampton at four parliaments between the years 1315 and 1339.

The King to his Archbishops &c Greeting Know ye that we of our especial grace have granted and by this our Charter have confirmed to our beloved the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of our town of Northampton that they their heirs and successors may every year for ever have at the said town of Northampton one Fair to last for one month namely on the Monday next after the Octaves of the Holy Trinity [the second Monday after Trinity Sunday] and for twenty seven days next ensuing unless the said Fair be to the injury of the neighbouring Fairs So nevertheless that the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses or their heirs or successors take no other toll in the said Fair than hath before our present grant been accustomed to be received in the same town Wherefore we will and do firmly command for us and our heirs that the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their heirs and successors for ever may have the said Fair at the town aforesaid with all liberties and free customs to such like Fair pertaining unless the same Fair be to the injury of the neighbouring Fairs So that the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses or their heirs or successors take no other toll in the said market than hath been heretofore accustomed to be taken in the same town as is aforesaid These being witnesses the venerable fathers John Archbishop of Canterbury¹⁰⁸ Primate of all England our Chancellor Henry Bishop of Lincoln¹⁰⁹ our Treasurer Richard Bishop of Durham¹¹⁰ Thomas Earl of Norfolk¹¹¹ and Marshal of England John de Warenne Earl of Surrey¹¹² Thomas de Beau-

¹⁰⁸ John Stratford was intruded Bishop of Winchester by the Pope in 1323, was translated to Canterbury in 1333, and was the founder of the College at Stratford-on-Avon. He died at Mayfield, in 1348, and was buried by St. Dunstan's Altar, in Canterbury Cathedral.

¹⁰⁹ Henry Burghersh was Treasurer and Chancellor of England, and became Bishop of Lincoln in 1320. He died at Ghent in 1342 and was buried at the east end of Lincoln Cathedral.

¹¹⁰ Richard Bury, Dean of Wells, became Bishop of Durham in 1333, and founded a library at Oxford. He died in 1343 at Auckland, and was buried at Durham.

¹¹¹ Thomas "of Brotherton," the second son of King Edward I., was born 1st June, 1300. He was created Earl of Norfolk in 1312, and Marshal of England in 1316. He "fu hom de moult sauvage & diverse maniere"; and he died August, 1338.

¹¹² John de Warenne was born in 1286, and succeeded as fourth Earl of Surrey and Warenne in 1305. He died in June, 1347.

champ Earl of Warwick¹¹³ Thomas Wake of Lydel¹¹⁴ John Darcy
the Nephew Steward of our household and others Given by our
hand at Westminster the 18th day of March

By the King himself

This charter is not with the muniments of the borough. The
preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the
Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot: Cart 11^{mo} Ed. III. no. 67.

Charter of St^h Richard II.

14TH JUNE, 1385.

This inspeximus charter incorporated and confirmed the previous
charters of the 11th and 41st Henry III., and 27th Edward I.,
and granted that the mayor and bailiffs of Northampton should
have the right to try all causes and pleas within the town and
suburbs; to keep the assize of bread, wine, and beer, and weights
and measures; and to take cognizance of forestallers and regraters.

The scribe of the *Liber Custumarum* copied the whole of
this charter in Latin into that book, commencing at folio 105a,
hereinafter printed.

Translation.

Richard by the grace of God King of England and France
and Lord of Ireland To the Archbishops Bishops Abbots Priors
Dukes Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Reeves Ministers and all
his Bailiffs and faithful men Greeting We have inspected a cer-

¹¹³ Thomas de Beauchamp, the son of Guy, Earl of Warwick, was born in 1313, and succeeded as the third Earl of Warwick in 1315, on the death of his father. He was a man "belliger animosus," and was Chief Justice of "Oyer and Terminer" in the royal forests of Rockingham, Salcey, and Whittlebury, in 1341, and in 1344 he was Marshal of England. He died 13th November, 1369.

¹¹⁴ Thomas Wake was the son of John Wake, who was summoned to Parliament in 1295 as Baron Wake, of Lydel. Thomas married Blanche, the daughter of Henry Plantaganet, Earl of Lancaster. He died in 1349, without leaving issue.

tain charter of the Lord Edward of famous memory formerly King of England son of King Henry our progenitor made to our Burgesses of Northampton in these words Edward by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 27th Edward I., 27th May, 1299, printed before at page 56] And we the grants aforesaid holding firm and valid the same for us and our heirs as much as in us lies to the aforesaid Burgesses and their heirs and other their successors Burgesses of the same town grant and confirm for ever as the charters aforesaid reasonably testify Moreover being willing to show more abundant favour to the same Burgesses in this behalf we have granted to them and by this our charter confirmed that although they or their ancestors either or any of the liberties or acquittances in the said charters contained by any cause arising hitherto have not fully used Nevertheless the same Burgesses their heirs and successors Burgesses of the same town the liberties and acquittances aforesaid and every of them may hereafter fully enjoy and use without the impediment of us or our heirs Justices Escheators Sheriffs or other our Bailiffs or Ministers whomsoever And moreover in relief of the town aforesaid willing to regard the same Burgesses and their heirs and successors aforesaid with more ample favours and liberties we have granted to them and by this our charter confirmed for us and our heirs that they may have cognizance of all pleas as well of assizes whatsoever as of other pleas whatsoever within the town aforesaid and the suburbs of the same arising to be holden before the Mayor and Bailiffs of the said town for the time being in the Guildhall of the town aforesaid for ever And that the Mayor of the town aforesaid for the time being may have for ever in the town aforesaid and the suburbs of the same the keeping of the assize of bread wine and beer and the correction and punishment of the same together with fines amerciaments and other profits thereof arising to be converted to the use of the commonalty of the town and suburbs aforesaid And also the keeping of the assize and assay and the survey of the measures and weights in the town and suburbs aforesaid as well in the presence as in the absence of us and our heirs so that the Mayor of the said town for the time being shall survey the said measures and weights and those which he shall find false he shall cause to be burnt and destroyed and other lawful and just measures

and weights to be appointed and sealed And also the trespassers whom he shall find in this behalf he shall duly punish and chastise as well in the absence as in the presence of us and our heirs as often as it shall be necessary and shall seem to him reasonable to be done And that the Mayor there for the time being for ever may have power as well in such presence as absence to enquire and take cognizance of forestallers¹¹⁵ and regraters¹¹⁶ of flesh and fish putrid desceased and otherwise unwholesome in the town and suburbs aforesaid and thereupon to make due punishment And likewise to dispose of the government correction and punishment of the premises together with the fines forfeitures amerciamment and other profits thereof issuing to the use of the commonalty of the town and suburbs aforesaid So that the clerk of the market or other minister of us or our heirs of the premises or any of them or of any things belonging or appertaining to the office of clerk of the market in no wise intromit in the town or suburbs aforesaid These being witnesses The Venerable Father W Archbishop of Canterbury¹¹⁷ Primate of all England R Bishop of London¹¹⁸ W Bishop of Winchester¹¹⁹ Thomas Bishop of Exeter¹²⁰ John King of Castille and Leon¹²¹

¹¹⁵ A forestaller was one who bought corn, cattle, or other merchandise, as it came to a fair or market with the intent to sell the same again at a higher price.

¹¹⁶ A regrater was one who bought by wholesale, in order to sell again by retail.

¹¹⁷ William Courtenay, the eldest son of Hugh Courtenay, second Earl of Devon, became Bishop of Hereford in 1369, he was translated to London in 1375, and became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1382. He died at Maidstone in 1396, and was buried in that churchyard. In Canterbury Cathedral there is a monument to this prelate.

¹¹⁸ Robert de Braybrook was a Canon of Lichfield, and became Bishop of London in 1381. He died in 1404, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral.

¹¹⁹ William of Wykeham was the King's chaplain, and renowned in history. In 1356 he was clerk of the King's works at Hendle and Yethampstead, in 1359 surveyor of works at Windsor; he built the royal castle at Queenborough, founded Winchester School, and New College, Oxford, restored St. Cross, and rebuilt the nave of Winchester Cathedral. He died in 1404, and was buried at Winchester. The celebrated motto, "Manners makyth man," was first adopted by this bishop.

¹²⁰ Thomas Brantyngham, a Canon of Exeter, became Bishop in 1369. He founded the Vicars' College, at Exeter. He died in 1394, at Clyst, Devon, and was buried at Exeter.

¹²¹ John of Ghent, the fourth son of King Edward III., was born in 1340; created Earl of Richmond in 1342; Duke of Lancaster, 1362; Lord of Bergerac, 1376, and Duke of Aquitain, 1390; and from 1372 to 1383, he was styled King of Castille and Leon. He was "bon chevalier & grand capitaine de gens d'armes"; and he died in 1399.

Duke of Lancaster Edmund Earl of York¹²³ Thomas Earl of Buckingham¹²⁵ our most dear Uncles Richard Earl of Arundel¹²⁴ Hugh Earl of Stafford¹²⁵ Michael de la Pole¹²⁶ our Chancellor Hugh de Segrave our Treasurer John de Montacute Steward of our Household and others Given by our hand at Westminster the fourteenth day of June in the eighth year of our reign

Waltham

By the King himself and his Council and for fifty marks paid into the Hanaper¹²⁷

Indorsed.

Allowed before the Lord the King of the term of St. Hilary in the ninth year of the reign of King Richard the second [1385] roll xxij.

Examined by Thomas de Stanley and Richard de Holm Clerks

Inrolled in the memoranda of the Exchequer to wit amongst the records of the term of Saint Michael in the fourth year of

¹²³ Edmund, surnamed of Langley, the fifth son of King Edward III., was born in 1341, created Earl of Cambridge in 1362; Lord of Wark in 1373; and Duke of York in 1385; and he was a justice of the peace for the county of Northampton.

"Conte de Cantebritte de renom

Qui eust coer fier come lion."

He died in 1402.

¹²⁵ Thomas of Woodstock, the seventh son of King Edward III., was born in 1385. He was created Earl of Buckingham in 1377; Duke of Gloucester, 1385; and Lord of Holderness, 1389. He was "Orgueilleux & présomptueux de manière"; and was styled Earl of Northampton, in right of his wife, Lady Eleanor de Bohun, daughter and heiress of Humphrey, Earl of Northampton. He was murdered in September, 1397.

¹²⁶ Richard Fitz-Alan was born in 1346, and succeeded as sixth Earl of Arundel in 1376. He married Lady Elizabeth de Bohun, daughter of William, Earl of Northampton. He was beheaded in September, 1397.

¹²⁵ Hugh de Stafford was born about 1342, and succeeded as second Earl of Stafford in 1372. He was a pilgrim in the Holy Land, in April, 1386, and again in September, the same year.

¹²⁴ Sir Michael de la Pole, was born about 1330. He purchased the manor of Grafton Regis, Northamptonshire, in 1359-60, and settled it on his son in 1383-84. He was created Earl of Suffolk, August, 1385; and died at Paris, September, 1389.

¹²⁷ The hanaper was the King's private treasury, and was kept by the clerk of the hanaper, whose function it was to receive moneys due to the King for the sealing of charters, letters patent, commissions, and writs. Fifty marks amounted to 433. 6s. 8d., a large sum of money at that time.

the reign of King Henry the fourth [1403] on the part of the King's Remembrancer to wit in a certain process touching John Lowdeham.

Allowed before the Lord the King at Northampton of the term of Easter in the ninth year of the reign of King Henry the fifth after the Conquest [1422] amongst the common pleas. roll xxix.

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment, 23 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide, and 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. The first line is ornamented with a large initial letter and a row of vertical leaves. The great seal of England in green wax remains attached to the silk cord, in an almost complete condition.

On the back is written:—

" 14^o Junij 8^o Rici 2^{da}.

"The charter of Richard the second whereby 2 charters of "Hen: 3rd & one of Edw^d. the 1st are confirmed and fresh "priviledges granted viz'. that all pleas of Afsize & other pleas "whatsoever happening within the Libertys of Norihnton may be "held before the Mayor and Bailiffs of the s^d town for the time "being in the Guildhall of the said Town for ever And that "the Mayor of the said town for the time being shall have the "keeping of the Afsize of Bread wine and Beer & of the Afsize "& Afsay of weights and measures & has power to enquire & "take Cognizance of forestallers and regraters - fflesh & ffish "within the Libertys of the Town."

" 9 "

Letters Patent of 2nd Henry IV.

3RD OCTOBER, 1400.

THIS grant to the burgesses in aid of inclosing the town is on the same lines as the preceding grants for a similar purpose; and was only to last for the space of two years.

Translation.

Concerning Murage.

The King to his beloved the Burgesses and good men of our town of Northampton Greeting Know ye that we have granted to you in aid of inclosing your aforesaid town for the security and defence of the same town and of the parts adjacent the underwritten customs to be levied and collected on saleable articles coming to the aforesaid town by the hands of good and faithful men to be by you hereunto deputed unto the end of two years next following fully to be completed namely on every load of corn of whatsoever kind for sale one farthing on every horse mare ox or cow for sale one halfpenny on two hides of horse mare ox or cow fresh or salted or tanned for sale one farthing on three salted salmons one farthing on five hogs for sale one farthing on every fresh salmon for sale one farthing on every fresh lamprey for sale one farthing on three salted lampreys one farthing on six sheep for sale one halfpenny on two pigs for sale one farthing on every hundred of skins of lambs kids hares rabbits foxes cats and squirrels for sale one halfpenny on every hundred of badger skins two pence on every great load of cloth for sale one penny on every entire cloth one halfpenny on every hundred of linen canvass cloth of Ireland Galway worsted and Kendal for sale one penny on every worsted cloth called coverlet with . . . for sale one halfpenny on every cloth of silk mixed with gold samite diapre and baudekyn for sale one halfpenny on every cloth not mixed with gold and "chief" of cendal . . . for sale one farthing on every cask of wine for sale one penny on every pipe of wine for sale one halfpenny on every cask of woad two pence on every quarter of woad one halfpenny on every cask of ashes for sale one farthing on every sack or pocket of madder or alum for sale one halfpenny on every cask of oil of olives or of other oil whatsoever for sale three pence on every pipe of oil for sale one penny and a halfpenny on every barrel of oil for sale one halfpenny on every load of cloth or other goods whatsoever for sale one farthing on every cart load of tan for sale one farthing on every hundred weight of . . . three halfpence on every bale of Spanish wax two pence on every

bale of wax of Poland and Lubeck one penny on every hundred weight of fat and tallow for sale one halfpenny on two thousand of onions for sale one farthing on eight bundles of garlick for sale one farthing on every thousand of herrings fresh or salted for sale one halfpenny on every barrel of herrings of Scone for sale one halfpenny on every load of fish for sale one farthing on every hundred of boards for sale one penny on every millstone for sale one farthing on every pair of millstones for sale one penny on every thousand of faggots for sale one penny halfpenny on every thousand of Astelwode for sale one penny on every thousand of turfs for sale one farthing on every quarter of salt for sale one farthing on every stone of cheese and butter for sale one halfpenny on every thousand of great nails for sale one farthing on two thousand of small nails one farthing on every hundred of . . . for sale one halfpenny on two barrels of pitch and fish for sale one farthing on three quarters of tan for sale one farthing on every hundred weight of tin brass and copper for sale one penny on every hundred of steel gads for sale one halfpenny on every hundred of Aberdeen for sale one penny on every hundred of great stock fish for sale one penny on every hundred of small stock fish one halfpenny on ten stone of flax or hemp for sale one farthing on every truss of merchandize of whatsoever kind and on every other thing not above specified coming from whatsoever part to the aforesaid town for sale and exceeding the value of five shillings wools hides tanned skins iron and lead only excepted one farthing So that the money thence arising be employed about the inclosure of the aforesaid town and be converted to no other uses And therefore we do command you that ye do take the said customs there on such like goods and merchandizes unto the end of the said two years in form aforesaid and not otherwise and that the said term of two years being ended the aforesaid customs do utterly cease and be abolished In testimony whereof &c Witness the King at Westminster the 3rd day of October

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot: Pat: 2^{do} Hen. IV. m.

Letters Patent of 9th Henry VI.

18TH MARCH, 1431.

THESE letters patent contain an exemplification of an Act of Parliament for paving and repairing the principal streets of Northampton.

This document has been copied twice into the *Liber Custumarum*; the first time in Norman-French commencing on folio 51a; the second in English commencing on folio 52b, both hereinafter printed.

This writing, which is with the borough muniments, is on parchment, 15 inches wide and 8 inches deep. The commencement and termination are in Latin, the remainder in Norman-French. It is tied through the lower fold with a strip of parchment, but has not had a seal.

On the back is written:—

"18^o Martij 9^o Hen. 6^o

"Exemplification of an Act of Parliam^t for paving and
"repairing certain highways & streets within the Town of
"Northampton."

"1430"

"10"

There are also two copies in the Public Record Office, one of which is referred to as:—

Rot: Parl: 9^{mo} Hen: VI. N^o. 23.

the other:—

Rot: Pat: 9^{mo} Hen: VI. 1^{ra} pt. m. 7.

Letters Patent of 17th Henry VI.

20TH MAY, 1439.

THESE letters patent, which are similar to an inspeximus charter, incorporated and confirmed the previous charters

of the 11th and 41st Henry III., 27th Edward I., and 8th Richard II., without, however, granting any fresh privileges.

Translation.

[H]enry by the grace of God [K]ing of England and France and Lord of Ireland To all to whom the present letters shall come Greeting We have inspected the charter of the Lord Richard late King of England after the Conquest the second our Progenitor [R]ichard by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 8th Richard II., 14th June, 1385, printed before on page 68] And the charters and letters aforesaid of such grants liberties franchises and acquittances not revoked with the advice and assent of the Lords spiritual and temporal being in our Parliament holden at Westminster in the first year of our reign Do accept approve and to the now Burgesses of the town aforesaid ratify and confirm as the charters and letters aforesaid reasonably witness and as they ought to use the same and they and their ancestors late burgesses of the town aforesaid the same liberties franchises and acquittances from the time of the making of the charters and letters aforesaid always hitherto have been accustomed reasonably to use and enjoy In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness ourself at Westminster the twentieth day of May in the seventeenth year of our reign.

Examined by John Grakkord }
Robert Mouter } Clerks

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment, 29½ inches wide and 16 inches deep. The writing is unornamented, and although spaces have been reserved for the initials H, R, and R they have not been inserted. A portion of the great seal of England still remains.

On the back is written:—

"20^o Maij 17^o Hen. 6^o

"The Charter of Hen: 6^o whereby two Charters of Hen: 3^o
"one of Edw^o 1^o & one of Richard the second are confirmed."

" 11 "

Charter of 23rd Henry VI.

11TH JUNE, 1445.

BY this charter the King granted that the mayor of the town for the time being should be his escheator in the same town and in the suburbs and fields thereof. With liberty for the mayor and commonalty to acquire lands, tenements, or rents to the value of £40 a year, to be held of the King or other person, without payment of fine or fee for the King's use.

Translation.

Henry by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland To the Archbishops Bishops Abbots Priors Dukes Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Reeves Ministers and all his Bailiffs and faithful men Greeting Know ye that we considering how the men of our town of Northampton for the yearly fee farm of the same town towards us are grievously charged of our special grace and for the singular affection which we bear and have to our beloved the Mayor and commonalty of the same town have granted for us and our heirs that as well every burgess of the town aforesaid who hereafter shall be chosen as Mayor of the same town and shall be Mayor so soon as and when he shall be chosen and preferred as Mayor of the same town as the now Mayor of the town aforesaid be henceforth the escheator¹²⁸ of us our heirs and successors in the town aforesaid and the suburbs and fields of the same town during the time when any such burgess shall remain in the office of Mayoralty of the town aforesaid and that the same escheator and his successors may have the same power jurisdiction and authority

¹²⁸ The escheator was the officer who observed and certified the King's escheats, or lands or other profits coming to the King by way of forfeiture or failure of heirs. This officer was appointed usually by the Lord Treasurer.

and liberty and other things whatsoever appertaining to the office of escheator in the same town suburbs and fields as other escheators of us and our heirs elsewhere have and shall have within the kingdom of England And that at no time hereafter any other escheator intromit himself of any thing touching the office of escheator in any wise howsoever to be exercised within the town suburbs and fields aforesaid unless only the Mayor of the town aforesaid for the time being and that the said now Mayor shall take his oath well and faithfully to execute the office of our escheator of the town aforesaid before any sufficient and considerable person by pretext of our mandate directed to the same person under our great seal and that every Mayor of the town aforesaid hereafter to be chosen at the time when he shall take his oath before the Barons of the Exchequer of us and our heirs well and faithfully to execute the office of Mayoralty of the town aforesaid shall take his oath before the same Barons well and faithfully to execute the office of escheator of the town aforesaid and shall yearly answer to us and our heirs of the issues and revenues issuing of the said office of escheator at the Exchequer of us and our heirs and that the same Mayor and his successors at the time when they shall take their oath before the aforesaid Barons may lawfully appoint an attorney before the same barons to make their profers and to account for them in the Exchequer of us and our heirs of the issues of the same Escheatorship yearly Moreover we have given and granted license for us and our heirs aforesaid as much as in us lies to the same now Mayor and commonalty and their successors that they may purchase lands tenements and rents to the value of forty pounds by the year which are holden of us in socage¹²⁹ or burgage¹³⁰ or of other persons whomsoever by any service whatsoever without fine or fee to be paid to our use To have and to hold to the same Mayor and commonalty and their successors to their relief for ever the statute passed for not putting lands and tenements to mortmain or although express mention of the

¹²⁹ "A tenure of lands by or for certain inferiour or husbandly services to bee performed to the Lord of the Fee."

¹³⁰ "A tenure proper to cities and townes whereby men of cities or borrows, hold their lands or tenements of the King or other Lord for a certain yearly rent."

true value of the premises or of other gifts or grants heretofore made to the Mayor and commonalty of the town aforesaid by us or our progenitors be not made in these presents or any act ordinance or appointment made passed or ordained notwithstanding provided it be found by inquisition thereof to be duly taken and rightly returned into the chancery of us or our heirs that the same may be done without loss or prejudice to us or our heirs or others whomsoever These being witnesses The Venerable Fathers J Archbishop of Canterbury¹³¹ Primate of all England and Legate of the Apostolic See our Chancellor W Bishop of Salisbury¹³² and Thomas Bishop of Bath and Wells¹³³ our most dear uncle Humphrey Duke of Gloucester¹³⁴ and our most dear cousins John Duke of Exeter¹³⁵ and Humphrey Duke of Buckingham¹³⁶ John Marquis of Dorset¹³⁷ and William Marquis of Suffolk¹³⁸ Steward of our Household Richard Earl

¹³¹ John Stafford, the son of Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, was first Dean and subsequently Bishop of Wells; in 1443 he became Archbishop of Canterbury. He died at Maidstone in 1443, and was buried before the Lady Chapel in Canterbury Cathedral. "Archbishop Stafford seems to have been distinguished either as chancellor or archbishop by no very remarkable ability."

¹³² William Ayscough the confessor of King Henry VI. became Bishop of Salisbury in 1438. He was murdered by a mob at Edington, Wilts., in 1450, and was there buried.

¹³³ Thomas de Beckington, Dean of Arches, and Archdeacon of Bucks., was consecrated Bishop of Bath and Wells on the 13th October, 1443, in the old collegiate church of Eton. He built the Western cloisters and repaired the Palace at Wells. He died in 1466, and was buried in Wells Cathedral near the Presbytery.

¹³⁴ Humphrey of Lancaster the fourth son of King Henry IV., was born in 1391, and created Earl of Pembroke and Duke of Gloucester in 1414. In 1437 he was constable of the Castle and steward of the forest of Rockingham. He was said to be of a "beau personnage" and a "strenuissimus princeps." He died in 1446.

¹³⁵ John de Holland was born in 1394, he was restored Earl of Huntingdon about 1416, created Earl of Exeter in 1433, and died in April, 1447.

¹³⁶ Humphrey Stafford was born in 1402 and succeeded as sixth Earl of Stafford the next year. He was also styled Earl of Buckingham, Hereford, Essex, Northampton, and Perche, and he was a justice of the peace for Northamptonshire. He married Lady Anne Neville, daughter of the first Earl of Westmorland. He was killed at the battle of Northampton, 10th July, 1460.

¹³⁷ Edmund Beaufort was born about 1402, and created Marquis of Dorset in 1443. Possibly the word "John" was a clerical error.

¹³⁸ William de la Pole was born in 1395, and succeeded as fourth Earl of Suffolk in 1415. He was possessed of many titles and many honours. He was murdered the end May, 1450.

of Salisbury¹³⁹ and John Earl of Shrewsbury¹⁴⁰ John Viscount of Beaumont¹⁴¹ our beloved and faithful Sir Ralph Cromwell Knight¹⁴² and Sir Ralph Botiler Knight our Treasurer of England and Chamberlain of our Household Master Adam Molins Keeper of our Privy Seal and others Given by our hand at Westminster the eleventh day of June in the twenty-third year of our reign

By writ of Privy Seal and of the date
aforesaid by authority of Parliament.

Kirkeby

Indorsed.

Inrolled in the memoranda of the Exchequer of the twenty-fourth year of King Henry the sixth amongst the records of the term of S. Michael Roll 2 on the part of the Treasurer's Remembrancer.

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment 17½ inches wide and 11½ inches deep. The first line is beautifully ornamented. The initial H is surmounted by a crown, and encloses an angel bearing an heraldic shield, which, however is blank, on the last scroll of the line are the words: "Rege fac salum dñe." The great seal of England in green wax is attached: it is fairly perfect.

On the back is written:—

"11^o Junij 23^o Hen: 6^u

"Grant of Henry 6th wherby 'tis granted int alia that the
"Mayor of Northampton for the time being shall for ever
"herafter be Escheator there."

"12"

"Henricus 6^{us} maiore esse eltaer."

¹³⁹ Richard Neville was born in 1400, and created Earl of Salisbury in 1429. He filled many important offices in England. In November, 1459, he was attainted; restored in blood and honours in October the next year; and ultimately beheaded the following December.

¹⁴⁰ John Talbot who was born in 1390, was created Earl of Shrewsbury in 1442. He was a justice of the peace for Northamptonshire. Jean de Waurin says "On le tenoit pour ce tempz estre le sage et vaillant chevalier du royaume d'Angleterre." He was killed at Chastillon, the 20th July, 1453.

¹⁴¹ John Beaumont was born in 1409, and succeeded as sixth Baron Beaumont and Viscount Beaumont 1440. He was killed in 1460.

¹⁴² Sir Ralph Cromwell was possessed of property at Sutton, Colly Weston, and Paston in this county.

Letters Patent of 30th Henry VI.

12TH MARCH, 1452.

THESE letters patent recite the last charter of 11th June, 1445, and state that in consequence of two Acts of Parliament of the 18th and 30th Henry VI., the said charter had become void, to the damage of the men of Northampton, so the King regranted the privileges in the same form as is contained in the said charter by this document.

The scribe of the *Liber Custumarum* copied these letters patent in Latin into that book, commencing on folio 107b, hereinafter printed.

Translation.

[H]ENRY by the grace of God [K]ing of [E]ngland and [F]rance and Lord of Ireland to all to whom these present letters shall come Greeting You must know that whereas we considering how grievously the men of our town of Northampton have been burthened for the fee farm of that town every year with us on the 11th day of June in the 23rd year of our reign of our special grace and because of the singular affection which we have had and borne towards our beloved Mayor and commonalty of the town aforesaid have granted for us and our heirs that as well every burgess of the town aforesaid who from that time should be about to be elected Mayor of that town and should be actually Mayor and as soon as he shall have been so elected and appointed Mayor of that town as the present Mayor of the town aforesaid should be from that time our Escheator and the Escheator of our heirs and successors in the town aforesaid and in the suburbs and fields of the same town during the time that any such burgess shall remain in the office of Mayor of the said town and that the same Escheator and his successors should have the same power jurisdiction authority and liberty and all other things belonging to the office of Escheator in the same town suburbs and fields as the other Escheators of ourselves and our heirs elsewhere within the realm of England had and shall have

And that in no future time henceforward shall any other Escheator interfere about anything that appertains to the office of Escheator to be exercised within the town suburbs and fields aforesaid in any way except only the Mayor of the town aforesaid for the time being And that the said Mayor shall take his oath concerning the office of our Escheator of the town aforesaid well and faithfully to be performed before some notable and sufficient person under the authority of our mandate to be directed to the same person under our great seal and that every Mayor of the town aforesaid from that time forward to be elected at the time that he should take his oath before the Barons of our Exchequer and those of our heirs as to the good and faithful discharge of the office of Mayor of the town aforesaid may take his oath before the same Barons as to the good and faithful discharge of the office of Escheator of the town aforesaid and may answer to us and to our heirs concerning the outgoings and revenues due from the said office of Escheator to our Exchequer and that of our heirs And that the same Mayor and his successors at the time when they should take their oath before the aforesaid Barons may lawfully proceed before the same Barons by their attorneys to make up their accounts and to account for them in the Exchequer of ourselves and our heirs as to the outgoings of the same escheatorship every year as in our charter for that purpose conferred is contained And now on behalf of the said men we are given to understand that our charter and all and singular the things in the same contained by the force and virtue of a certain Act¹⁴³ in our Parliament begun at Westminster in the 18th year of our reign and finished at Leicester and of a certain other Act¹⁴³ in our last Parliament held in like manner at Westminster are void and of no effect to the same men as is said to the no small loss and grievance of those men and our town aforesaid Wherefore they have made humble supplication to us that we would be graciously pleased to grant them other letters patent of ours in this matter We being favourably inclined to their supplication in this matter of our special grace and because of the singular affection which we have and bear towards our beloved Mayor and commonalty of that town have now granted anew for us and our heirs that as well every Burgess of the town

¹⁴³ These appear to have been private acts, and are not in the statutes at large.

aforesaid who shall hereafter be about to be elected Mayor of that town and shall be actually Mayor and as soon as he shall be elected and appointed Mayor of that town as the present Mayor of the town aforesaid shall be from that time forward our Escheator and Escheator of our heirs and successors in the town aforesaid and the suburbs and fields of the same town during the time that every such burgess shall remain in the office of Mayor of the town aforesaid And that the same Escheator and his successors may have the same power jurisdiction authority and liberty and all other things whatsoever belonging to the office of escheator in the same town suburbs and fields as other Escheators of us and our heirs elsewhere within the realm of England have and shall have And that at no future time may any other Escheator interfere about anything that appertains to the office of escheator to be exercised within the town suburbs and fields aforesaid in any way except only the Mayor of the town aforesaid for the time being And that the said Mayor now being take his oath concerning the office of escheator of our town aforesaid well and faithfully to be performed before some sufficient and notable person under the authority of our mandate to be directed to the same person under our great seal and that every Mayor of the town aforesaid hereafter to be elected at the time that he shall take his oath before the Barons of our Exchequer and those of our heirs as to the good and faithful discharge of the office of mayor of the town aforesaid may take his oath before the same Barons as to the good and faithful discharge of the office of escheator of the town aforesaid and may answer to us and to our heirs aforesaid concerning the outgoings and revenues due from the said office of escheator to our Exchequer and that of our heirs every year And that the same Mayor and his successors at the time that they shall take their oath before the aforesaid Barons may lawfully proceed before the same Barons by their attorneys to make up their accounts and to account for them in the Exchequer of us and our heirs as to the outgoings of the said escheatorship every year In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness myself at Westminster the 12th day of March in the 30th year of our reign

Godyng

By writ of Privy Seal and of the date aforesaid
by authority of Parliament.

Indorsed.

Enrolled in the memoranda of the Exchequer of the year xxxiiij of Henry VI. [1453] amongst the records of the term of St. Michael Roll xxvj on the part of the Treasurer's Remembrancer.

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the corporation, are written in Latin on plain parchment, 20 inches wide and 15 inches deep. The writing is unornamented: a large space has been left for the initial H, and smaller spaces in the first line for the capitals of *Rex* and other words, but none of these letters have been filled in. A fragment of the great seal of England remains attached to the silk cord. The document has been slightly injured by damp.

On the back is written:—

"12^o Macij 30^o Hen. VI.

"The Charter of Hen: the sixth whereby the Mayor of Northampton for the time being is appointed Escheator there de
"Novo, for that a former Grant made to the same Effect 11^o
"Junij 23^o Hen 6^o is became vid by reason of two several Acts of
"Pal within mentioned to be paised since the making thereof."

"1451"

"13"

There is also a copy in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot: Pat: 30^{mo} Hen. VI. 2nd pt. m. 4.

Charter of 38th Henry VI.

14TH MARCH, 1459.

THIS charter recites that the men and burgesses of Northampton had rendered notable services to the King, and further that they had from the time of legal memory enjoyed liberties and franchises. Therefore by this charter, the King, by reason of his singular affection to the then mayor of the town, incorporated the town by the name of the mayor, bailiffs, and

burgesses of Northampton, and appointed the mayor justice of the peace for the same town.

The scribe of the *Liber Custumarum* copied the whole of this charter in Latin into that book, commencing at folio 110a, hereinafter printed.

Translation.

HENRY by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland To the Archbishops Bishops Abbots Priors Dukes Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Reeves Ministers and all his Bailiffs and faithful men Greeting Know ye that we considering not only the great and memorable services which the faithful men and Burgesses of our town of Northampton have heretofore done to us but also the great and memorable services which they have now lately performed by their daily attendance on and assistance to our royal person at their heavy costs expenses and charges for the resistance reduction and correction of divers of our rebellious people on which account they and by payment of the fee farm of the town aforesaid are very much burthened and charged as we have heard And whereas also the Mayor and Bailiffs in the town aforesaid have existed continually from time whereof memory is not and have had and obtained divers liberties franchises acquittances and immunities of the grants of our famous progenitors formerly Kings of England and our own for the sound and fitting government of the same town Willing therefore and for the singular affection which we bear and have to our beloved William Austyn Esquire¹⁴⁶ the now Mayor of the town aforesaid and the Burgesses and commonalty of the same town more graciously to show our royal munificence to the same Burgesses in this behalf of our special grace and of our mere motion and certain knowledge Have granted and by this our present charter confirmed for us our heirs and successors to the Burgesses of the town aforesaid and their successors for ever the liberties franchises acquittances and immunities underwritten to wit That the same town be for ever incorporated of one Mayor two Bailiffs and Burgesses and that the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their successors Mayors Bailiffs and Burgesses of the

¹⁴⁶ William Austyn, or Austin, was mayor of the town in 1459-60, 1468-69, and 1476-77.

same town so incorporated be one perpetual community incorporated in deed and name by the name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the same town and may have perpetual succession And that the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their successors aforesaid by the same name be persons fit in the law to prosecute and defend all manner of pleas suits plaints and demands and also actions real personal and mixed moved or to be moved in any of the courts whatsoever of us or our heirs or others whomsoever as well before us and our heirs as before any spiritual and secular justices and judges whomsoever And that they in the same may plead and be impleaded and answer and be answered Also we have granted for us and our heirs aforesaid to the aforesaid now Mayor and Burgesses and their successors that whensoever any Mayor of the said town for the time being within the time of his office of Mayoralty in any manner shall happen to die or by reason of infirmity or in any other cause to withdraw or vacate so that the said office cannot be duly executed then the said burgesses of the town aforesaid their heirs and successors may have full power jurisdiction authority and liberty at the court of hustings of the said town next to be holden after the death withdrawal or vacating of such Mayor to choose amongst themselves one other of the co-burgesses of the said town as Mayor of the said town And which Mayor so elected or to be elected shall take his oath of the office of mayoralty and escheator of the same town before the Barons of the Exchequer of us and our heirs well and faithfully to do observe keep and execute the same offices and yearly to answer to us and our heirs of the issues and revenues issuing of the said office of escheator at the Exchequer of us and our heirs as before it hath been accustomed yearly to be done so often as the case aforesaid shall happen to arise And further of our more abundant grace we have granted for us our heirs and successors to the aforesaid now Mayor and Burgesses of the town aforesaid and their successors that as well the same now Mayor as every Burgess of the town aforesaid who hereafter shall be chosen as Mayor of the same town and shall be Mayor so soon as and when he shall be elected and appointed as Mayor of the same town thenceforth shall be a justice or custos to keep the peace of us our heirs or successors within the town aforesaid the suburbs and fields of the same town as they are extended during the time in which

any such Burgess shall be in the office of the mayoralty of the town aforesaid And giving and granting to the same Mayor Burgesses and their successors who hereafter shall be chosen Mayor of the same town full authority and power by the tenor of these presents to do exercise and execute all and singular the things which to a justice or custos of our peace within the town aforesaid the suburbs and fields of the same town as they are extended duly pertain to be done for ever And that no warrant of supersedeas for security of the peace under the testimony of any justice of us our heirs and successors assigned or to be assigned to keep the peace in the County of Northampton be hereafter allowed within the liberty of the said town unless the names of the manucaptors¹⁴³ and the sum in which the said manucaptors before such justice are bound to us by their recognizance in this behalf be fully expressed and declared that the said Mayor and his successors who have the keeping of the peace there as well of the grant of us as of our progenitors may duly certify us in any of our courts whatsoever concerning such security AND LASTLY of our more abundant grace we have granted for us our heirs and successors to the aforesaid now Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their successors that neither the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses nor either of them nor their successors nor either of them dwelling and residing within the said town and the suburbs of the same hereafter be made taxers assessors or collectors or taxer assessor or collector of any tax quota or subsidy or fifteenth and tenth or of any other tax imposition or tollage whatsoever to us our heirs or successors to be granted by the commonalty of our kingdom of England of or in the county of Northampton aforesaid or elsewhere except only in the aforesaid town of Northampton and the suburbs and fields of the same as they are extended but that they and every of them be hereof altogether acquitted and discharged for ever These being witnesses The venerable fathers Thomas Archbishop of Canterbury¹⁴⁴

¹⁴³ Manucaptors or mainpernors were those who were sureties or gave bail for one accused.

¹⁴⁴ Thomas Bouchier became successively Bishop of Worcester in 1435, of Ely in 1443, and Archbishop in 1454. He died in 1486, and was buried in Canterbury Cathedral to the north of the high altar. "'We only gathered from him flowers 'instead of fruit,' says the monk who writes his life, 'as from a useless tree. 'Except on the day of his installation, he would never celebrate mass or solemn service in his cathedral.'"

and W Archbishop of York¹⁴⁷ W Bishop of Winchester¹⁴⁸ our Chancellor and L Bishop of Durham¹⁴⁹ Keeper of our Privy Seal and our most dear cousins Henry Duke of Exeter¹⁵⁰ and Humphrey Duke of Buckingham¹⁵¹ John Earl of Shrewsbury¹⁵² and James Earl of Wiltshire¹⁵³ our Treasurer John Viscount of Beaumont¹⁵⁴ and Henry Viscount Bourghchier and also our beloved and faithful Sir John de Beauchamp Knight Steward of our Household and Sir Richard Tunstall our Chancellor and others Given by our hand at Westminster the 14th day of March in the thirty eighth year of our reign

By writ of Privy Seal and of the date
aforesaid by authority of Parliament

Naylor

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment, 20 inches wide, and 10½ inches deep. The first line is ornamented with initial letters. The cord worked through the lower edge is twisted of gold and silver thread, silk, and cotton. The seal has gone.

On the back is written:—

“ 14^o Marcij 38^o Hen. 6^o ”

¹⁴⁷ William Boothe was a Canon of St. Paul's, London; and in 1447 he was appointed Bishop of Lichfield; in 1452 he was translated to York. He died in 1464, and was buried at Southwell.

¹⁴⁸ William Waynflete, a native of Waynflete, Lincolnshire, was elected Bishop of Winchester in 1447. He founded St. Mary Magdalene College, Oxford, and the Free School, at Waynflete; and was Chancellor of England from 1449 to 1459. He died in 1486, and was buried at Winchester.

¹⁴⁹ Lawrence Boothe, the half-brother of William Boothe, and Chancellor of England, was appointed by Papal bull, through the interest of Queen Margaret, Bishop of Durham in 1457; and in 1476 he was translated to York. He died in 1480, and was buried at Southwell.

¹⁵⁰ Henry Holand was born in 1430, and succeeded as second Duke of Exeter in 1447. He was Constable of Fotheringhay Castle in 1459. He was attainted 4th November 1461; and in 1473 he was found dead in the sea.

¹⁵¹ For note as to Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, see page 79.

¹⁵² John Talbot, the son of the first Earl of Shrewsbury, was born in 1413, and succeeded as Earl in 1453. He was killed at the battle of Northampton, 10th July, 1460.

¹⁵³ James Butler, son of the fourth Earl of Ormund, was born in 1420, and created Earl of Wiltshire in 1449. He was beheaded in 1461.

¹⁵⁴ John Beaumont, son of the fifth Baron Beaumont, was born in 1409, succeeded as the sixth Baron in 1413; and was created Viscount Beaumont in 1440. He also was killed the 10th July, 1460.

"The Charter of Hen. 6th whereby the Town of Northampton
 "is incorporated by the name of the Mayor Bailiffs & Burgeses
 "of that Town & by that name are capacitated to sue and be
 "sued proviſion is alſo made in caſe of the death &c. of a Mayor
 "to pceed to a freſh Eleccion and 'tis granted that no Burgeſs for
 "the future ſhall be obliged to collect any Tax out of the libertys
 "of the town."

" 14 "

Letters Patent of 1st Edward IV.

20TH FEBRUARY, 1462.

THESE letters patent promulgated a general pardon after the
 King's accession to the throne on the 28th June, 1461, for
 all offences committed before the 4th November, the same year.
 A few persons are exempted by name, as well as all rebels in
 Scotland and France, and certain others.

The following translation is an abstract only of the original
 document, which is very lengthy.

Abbreviated Translation.

Edward by the grace of God King of England and France and
 Lord of Ireland To all his bailiffs and faithful men to whom the
 present letters shall come Greeting Know ye that by our especial
 grace and out of our certain knowledge and mere motion We
 pardon remit and release to our faithful men of the town of
 Northampton and to the burgesses of Northampton all manner of
 transgressions offences misprisons contempts and violences by the
 same men committed before the 4th day of November last past
 any statute to the contrary notwithstanding And we also pardon
 to all others all manner of murders rapes rebellions insurrections
 felonies and other transgressions Provided always that no pardon

of ours be extended to John Waleys¹⁵⁵ late of Thorneton in the county of Devon Esquire Roger Thorp late of London Esquire William Phillips otherwise called William Ferroure late of London Esquire Edward Thorneburgh late of Carlisle Gentleman John Amyas late of Walton in the county of York Gentleman Michael Rygby late of Kingston-on-Thames in the county of Surrey Yeoman and Thomas Sergeauntson late of York Yeoman nor to any other person attaint by the authority of Parliament nor to rebels in Scotland or France nor to any officers who had to render accounts In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness myself at Westminster the 20th day of February in the first year of our reign

By the King himself
frankes

Indorsed.

Inrolled in the memoranda of the Exchequer that is to say amongst the records of the term of Trinity in the second year of King Edward the fourth Roll on the part of the King's Remembrancer.

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment, 19½ inches wide, and 10 inches deep. The capital letters of the first line are slightly ornamented. The greater portion of the great seal of England, in white wax, much defaced, remains attached to a strip of parchment.

On the back is written:—

"20^o feb:j^o Edri 4^o

"A Pardon under the Broad Seal of all Treasons Murders
"Rapes Rebellions Insurrections Conspiracys Trespases & of-
"fences whatsoever committed by the Men or Burghesses of
"Northampton before the 4th day of Nov: last past certain
"persons being exempted by name."

"15"

¹⁵⁵ None of the persons exempted from this pardon were connected with the borough or county of Northampton.

Letters Patent of 2nd Edward IV.

30TH MAY, 1462.

BY these letters patent the King remitted to the town of Northampton the annual sum of £20, part of the farm of the town, for the term of 20 years.

Translation.

For the pardon of our Men of Northampton.

The King to all his Bailiffs and faithful men to whom the present letters shall come Greeting Know ye that we of our certain knowledge and mere motion have pardoned remised and released for us and our heirs to the Mayor and Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty of our town of Northampton and their heirs and successors by whatsoever name they are incorporated called or known twenty pounds parcel of one hundred and eighty marks of the farm of the town aforesaid of which the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty of the said town or either of them was or were then charged towards us in our Exchequer of record by the name of the men of the town of Northampton or by any other name whatsoever for the farm of their town And we do grant that the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty of the same town and their heirs and successors of the aforesaid twenty pounds parcel of the aforesaid one hundred and eighty marks of the farm of the town aforesaid during the term of twenty years thence next following towards us and our heirs yearly in payment of the fee farm of the same town shall be quit and discharged And that the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty and their heirs and successors shall hold the town aforesaid quit and discharged of the same twenty pounds towards us our heirs and successors during the same term. And that notwithstanding any gift or grant as aforesaid to the present Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men or commonalty of the town or their predecessors by us or our progenitors or others of our kingdom of England expressed to be in existence

or any statute ordinance act or other thing to the contrary notwithstanding In testimony &c. Witness the King at Leicester the thirtieth day of May.

By writ of Privy Seal and of the date aforesaid.

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot : Pat : 2^{do} Ed. IV., p. 1, m. 14.

Letters Patent of 2nd Edward IV.

10TH JULY, 1462.

THESE letters patent, which are of the nature of an inspeximus charter, inspect and confirm the charters of 11th and 41st Henry III., 27th Edward I., 8th Richard II., 30th Henry VI., and 38th Henry VI.

The scribe of the *Liber Custumarum* copied these letters patent in Latin into that book, commencing at folio 105a, hereinafter printed.

Translation.

Edward by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland to all to whom these present letters come Greeting We have inspected a charter of the Lord Richard the second after the Conquest lately King of England made in these words Richard by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 8th Richard II., 14th June, 1385, printed before at page 68] We have also inspected the letters patent of Henry the sixth lately in fact but not in right King of England made in these words Henry by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 30th Henry VI., 12th March, 1452, printed before at page 81] We have moreover inspected a charter of the aforesaid Henry the

sixth lately King as is aforesaid made in these words Henry by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 38th Henry VI., 14th March, 1459, printed before at page 84] Now we the charters and letters aforesaid and all and singular the things contained therein ratifying the same for us and our heirs as much as in us is do accept approve and to our beloved the now Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the aforesaid town and their successors ratify and confirm in manner as the charters and letters aforesaid do reasonably testify In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness myself at Westminster the 10th day of July in the second year of our reign

For five marks [i.e., £3. 6s. 8d.] paid in the Hanaper
Suerendum

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot: Pat: 2^{do} Ed. IV., p. 5 m. 26.

Letters Patent of 18th Edward IV.

2ND MAY, 1478.

THE King by these letters patent granted that all future mayors and escheators should take their oaths of office in the town of Northampton, instead of before the barons of the King's exchequer, in London. And the King further remitted the before mentioned sum of £20 for the further term of 12 years, after the expiration of the before mentioned term of 20 years.

Mr. Simon Bradfield, mayor in 1478-9, was the first sworn into office in the town, by virtue of this grant.

Translation.

EDWARD by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland To all to whom these present letters shall

come Greeting Know ye that whereas the Lord Edward the first our progenitor [The letters patent of the 27th Edward I., 27th May, 1299, hereinbefore printed at page 56, shortly recited as far as relates to the appointment of the Mayor] WE considering the charges and expenses to which the said Burgesses of our aforesaid town have for a long time sustained in taking the oath of the office of Mayor aforesaid at the Exchequer of us and of others our progenitors to the great impoverishment of the same town have of our special grace granted to the now Mayor Burgesses and commonalty of the aforesaid town and their successors that neither they nor any of them shall from henceforth present at the Exchequer of us or of our heirs any one by them or any of them elected mayor in any wise to take before the Barons of the same Exchequer the oath of the office of Mayor or for the mayoralty of the said town But that every Mayor of the same town to be hereafter elected shall annually within the octaves of the Feast of Saint Michael next after his election take such his oath faithfully to execute the said office of Mayor or of the mayorship and all and singular the things concerning the same office before the last Mayor there his predecessor and the Recorder of the same town for the time being and the four Coroners of the same town or two of their predecessors the Recorders and Coroners or two of them at least for the time being in the "Guihald" of the same town in all things well and faithfully to observe keep and execute the same office without any personal presentation or prosecution at the said Exchequer of us and our heirs or elsewhere without the said town of Northampton to be hereafter in anywise made for taking such oath of office AND WE have moreover granted for us and our heirs aforesaid that every such last predecessor of the Mayor of the town aforesaid for the time being and the Recorder and Coroners or two at least of them as is aforesaid for the time being may by these presents have full power and authority to receive the oath of such Mayor of the town aforesaid to be henceforth elected in form aforesaid to be hereafter taken yearly within the aforesaid octaves for the office of mayor or of the mayorship of the town aforesaid AND WE WILL that every Escheator of the same town for the time being shall every year for ever within the octaves aforesaid next following the election of such mayor every year within the said town and not elsewhere take his oath well and faithfully to

execute the office of escheator in manner and form fit and convenient without that the said Escheator of the same town or his successors be compelled to make any such his or their oath without the same town otherwise than we have above granted And we will that always every year within fifteen days next after such election of the mayor of the town aforesaid we be certified at the Exchequer of us our heirs or successors under the seal of the mayor of the same town of Northampton of the name of the Mayor and Escheator thereof And further whereas we on the thirtieth day of May in the second year of our reign [the letters patent of the 2nd Edward IV., 30th May, 1462, hereinbefore printed at page 91, shortly recited as far as relates to the remission of the payment of the annual sum of twenty pounds] WE of our abundant grace have granted and these presents do grant that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses men and commonalty of the same town for the time being and every of them their heirs and successors be yearly in the payment of the farm of the same town acquitted and discharged towards us and our heirs from the time of the expiration or ending of the said term of twenty years for the term of twelve years next following the same expiration or ending of the said twenty years from twenty pounds parcel of the aforesaid one hundred and eighty marks yearly for the farm of the aforesaid town And that the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty and their heirs and successors may hold the town aforesaid acquitted and discharged towards us and our heirs from the said twenty pounds from the day of the expiration or termination of the said term of twenty years for the term of twelve years next after the same expiration or termination although express mention of the true yearly value or of any other value of the premises or of any of them or of any gifts or grants heretofore made to the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty and their successors or to any one or more of their predecessors and successors by us or by any of our progenitors or predecessors heretofore Kings of England is not in these presents made or any statute act or ordinance made to the contrary notwithstanding IN testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness myself at Westminster the second day of May in the eighteenth year of our reign

By the same King and by the authority of the
same Parliament. Morton

Indorsed.

Inrolled in the memoranda of the Exchequer that is to say amongst the records of the term of Saint Michael in the eighteenth year of King Edward the fourth first roll on the part of the King's Remembrancer

Inrolled also amongst the memoranda of the said Exchequer that is to say amongst the presentments of the term of Saint Michael in the year xvij King Edward iiijth R^e vymno On the part of the Rem. of the Treasury

These letters as far as they relate to the twenty pounds released to the Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty of Northampton for the term of twelve years are rendered void by the letters patent of the 30th day of March in the first year of the reign of King Richard the third whereby the King pardoned remitted and released for himself and his heirs to the mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty aforesaid and their heirs and successors the said sum of twenty pounds of the farm of Northampton from the second year of King Richard III.

And they are quit

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in Latin on plain parchment, 23 inches wide and 14½ inches deep. Spaces have been left in the first line for initial letters, which have not been inserted. The red and black cord remains, but the seal has gone.

On the back is written:—

"2^o Maij 18^o Edwⁱ 4"

"The Charter of Edw^d. 4th wherein is recited the Charter of "Edw^d. the first & it is hereby granted (inter alia) that the "Mayor of Northampton shall for ever hereafter be sworn into "his office within the Octave of Saint Michael in the Guildhall "of the said town before the last Mayor and the Recorder for "the time being & the four Coroners of the said town or two of "them & not before the Barons of the Exchequer as formerly "And also that the escheator of the said town shall likewise take "the oath of office at the time aforesaid mentioned within the "said town and not elsewhere."

" 16 "

Letters Patent of 1st Richard III.

30TH MARCH, 1484.

THESE letters patent recite that whereas the town had in times past prospered, it was then in a piteous condition, the inhabitants fallen into poverty, and almost half the town being desolate. The King therefore remitted to the town for ever 50 marks of the farm of the town.

Translation.

RICHARD by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland TO ALL to whom these present letters shall come Greeting WHEREAS our most dear brother the Lord Edward the fourth late King of England now deceased by his letters patent which we have inspected [the letters patent of the 2nd Edward IV., 30th May, 1462, hereinbefore printed at page 91; and of the 18th Edward IV., 2nd May, 1478, hereinbefore printed at page 93, are both shortly recited as far as relates to the remission of the payment of the annual sum of twenty pounds parcel of the before mentioned sum of one hundred and twenty pounds of the farm of the town of Northampton for the periods of twenty and twelve years respectively] NOW FROM the lamentable information of our beloved William Lynde¹⁵⁵ the now Mayor of the town aforesaid and the Burgesses and Bailiffs of the same town it hath been sufficiently shown to us that their predecessors formerly inhabiting the aforesaid town of Northampton in the remote times of our noble progenitors formerly Kings of England after the first

¹⁵⁵ William Lynde, or Lyne, was mayor of the town in 1484-5.

incorporation of the same town in their goods and means in divers ways prospered and the town aforesaid so in every quarter was inhabited that scarcely any house in the same remained desolate or unoccupied so that one hundred and twenty pounds yearly due to our said progenitors formerly Kings of England of the fee farm of the town aforesaid long after the incorporation of the same by the then Bailiffs of the same town for the time being could be paid out of the rents profits and revenues arising and appertaining within the same town to the payment of the fee farm aforesaid without charges of their own proper goods and which town in times now lately passed hath fallen into so great desolation and ruin and the inhabitants of the same have fallen into poverty by the misfortunes and great charges and no small inconvenience labours and various expenses sustained and had and are so at present so that almost half of the same town (which is grievously to be deplored) remains desolate and destroyed and destitute of fit persons to sustain the office of Bailiffs and the ordinary yearly charges within the town aforesaid hereafter to be made or paid to us or our heirs insomuch that the men and Burgesses and especially the Bailiffs of the same town for the time being daily sustain so great and insupportable loss in payment of the aforesaid fee farm of one hundred and twenty pounds which they and their predecessors by the names of the men of the town of Northampton for the fee farm of their town from time whereof the memory of man is not were bound to pay and still are bound to pay to us at the Exchequer of us and our progenitors aforesaid and other our predecessors late Kings of England that the same Bailiffs for the time being fifty three pounds six shillings and eight pence at least yearly now and more in years past of their own goods beyond the said yearly ordinary charges which they by reason of their offices aforesaid have sustained and have been accustomed to sustain within the town aforesaid were bound and still are bound to pay to us and our progenitors and predecessors aforesaid on account of such great and insupportable charges very many of the burgesses and inhabitants of the town aforesaid who seemed fit by their good conduct and means to sustain and occupy the aforesaid office of Bailiffs of the town aforesaid and all charges incumbent on the same before the times in which they thought they should be elected to the same offices altogether withdrew with their goods from the town aforesaid and daily on that account so with-

draw so that within two or three years now ensuing few or no fit men in their goods and means may be found (which God forbid) to bear or exercise any such office within the town aforesaid as aforesaid And as is likely to be the consequence that they will scarcely be able to answer us or our heirs of any part of the fee farm of the town aforesaid unless they are graciously succoured by us WHEREUPON they have humbly besought us that we would vouchsafe graciously to regard them with pity and extend to them our abundant grace in the premises And which Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses are willing the said letters patent of the said late King the date whereof is the aforesaid second day of May in the eighteenth year aforesaid as to the aforesaid twenty pounds pardoned to them for the aforesaid term of twelve years by the same late King as is aforesaid to restore to our Chancery to be cancelled to the intent that we would graciously vouchsafe to grant our letters patent to the same now Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty of the town aforesaid and their successors in form following WE the premises considering and certainly knowing the same to be true and for that because the same now Mayor and Bailiffs and Burgesses the same letters patent as to the aforesaid twenty pounds by the said late King for the said term of twelve years in form aforesaid pardoned have restored to us in our Chancery aforesaid to the intent aforesaid to be cancelled And which letters are so there cancelled OF our special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion have pardoned remised and released and by these presents do pardon remise and release for us and our heirs as much as in us lies to the aforesaid now Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses men and commonalty of the said town of Northampton and their heirs and successors for ever by whatsoever name they were incorporated or called or known fifty marks [$\text{£}33. 6s. 8d.$] parcel of the aforesaid one hundred and twenty pounds of the farm of the town aforesaid of which the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses Men and Commonalty of the said town or either of them yearly is or are charged towards us in our Exchequer of Record by the name of the men of the town of Northampton or other name whatsoever for the farm of their town And also we grant to the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses Men and Commonalty of the same town and their heirs and successors that they of the aforesaid fifty marks parcel of the aforesaid one hundred and twenty

pounds for the farm of the town aforesaid from the feast of Saint Michael last past hitherto and henceforth yearly for ever towards us our heirs and successors in payment of the fee farm of the same town be altogether quit and discharged and that the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses Men and Commonalty and their heirs and successors hold the town aforesaid quit and discharged of the same fifty marks towards us our heirs and successors from the aforesaid Feast of Saint Michael last past hitherto and henceforth for ever without the impeachment molestation interruption or grievance of us our heirs or successors Justices Barons of our Exchequer Sheriffs Escheators Receivers or other the officers or ministers whomsoever of us our heirs or successors or either of them without any account answer or reason or any other thing to us our heirs or successors aforesaid or either of them for the aforesaid fifty marks or any part thereof hereafter to be rendered paid or done in any wise howsoever Although express mention of the true yearly value of the premises or either of them or of other gifts or grants to the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses Men and Commonalty and their successors or either of them or to any of their predecessors and their successors heretofore made by us or by any of our progenitors or predecessors late Kings of England in these presents be not made or any statute act or ordinance to the contrary thereof made passed or ordained or any other thing cause or matter whatsoever notwithstanding IN testimony whereof we have caused these letters to be made patent WITNESS myself at Nottingham the thirtieth day of March in the first year of our reign

By writ of privy seal and of the date aforesaid
by authority of Parliament

Wheler

Indorsed.

Inrolled in the memoranda of the Exchequer of the first year of the reign of King Richard the third to wit Amongst the records of the Term of Easter Roll on the part of the Treasurer's Remembrancer.

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in Latin on plain parchment, 25½ inches wide and 15½ inches deep. Spaces are left in the first line for

the insertion of the capital letters, which have not, however, been executed. A fragment of the great seal of England in brown wax still remains attached.

On the back is written:—

"30^o Marcij j^o Rici 3^o"

"Grant whereby Rich^d 3^d remits to the Corporation of
"Northton and their Successors for ever 50 marks parcel of
"their annual ffee ffarm Rent of 120^l."

"17"

Exemplification of Act of Parliament.

4TH HENRY VII.

1489.

BY this Act of Parliament the mayor for the time being and the past mayors were authorised to choose 48 of the most wise, discrete, and best disposed inhabitants of the town. And these 48, with the mayor and bailiffs were each year to choose the new mayor.

Item quedam alia Billa formam
Actus simili⁹ in se continens
porrecta fuit Dño Regi in Parlia-
mento p̄dco ex parte Inhitancin
Ville Northmp que in se seriem
v⁹voz sequencium continebat:—

Item another bill in the form
of a similar act was passed in
the aforesaid Parliament of our
lord the King on the part of
the inhabitants of the town of
Northampton which is contained
in the following words:—

Forasmuche as of late greate divisions discencions and discordes
have growen and been had as well in the Townes and Buroughes
of Norhampton & Leycestre as in other dyv⁹s Townes & Bourghs
Corporat within this Realme of England amongst the Inhitauntez
of the same for the eleccion and choyse of Maires Bailles and
other officers within the same by reason that such multytude of
the seid Inhitauntez beyng of lytill substaunce and haveour and
of no sadnes discrecion wisdom ne reason which oft in nombre

exced in theire Assembles other that been approved discrete sadde and well disposed psones have by their multitude and by their bandis confideracys exclamacions and hedyneſſe used in the seid Assembles caused great hobles divisions and discordes among theym ſelfe as well in the seid eleccions as in aſſeſſyng of other lawfull charges and impositions amonst theym to the ſubv^ocion of ye gode rule govⁿauce and old politik demenyng of the seid Burghes and oft tymes to the greate brech of the Kyngs Peace within the ſame to the fere drede and manyfolde pillj that therby may ensue For reformation whereof and for the more quiete and restfulness of the Kyngz Subgettj hereafter and for the conſervation of the Kyngs Pease more ſurely to be obſerved and kept Be yt Ordeyned enacted and ſtabliſhed by thadvye and aſſent of the Lordes ſpual and tempall and comens in this p^{re}ſent Parliament aſſembled and by auctorite of the ſame that from hensfourth the eleccions of Maires Baillyffs and other officers and alſo the aſſeſſyng of all lawfull charges and impositions that hereafter ſhalbe made and had in the Burgh of No^rhampton ſhall be had made and used after the fourme folowyng that is to ſey the Maire of the Town of No^rhampton and his brethern for the tyme beyng that then oſtymys paſt have ben Mares of the ſame or the more part of theym uppon their othes ſhall do name and choſe xlvijj psones of the moſt wiſe discrete and beſt diſpoſed psones Inhitauntj within the seid Towne by theire diſcrecions other then afore that tyme have ben Maires and Baillies of the ſame And the ſame psones pt of theym from tyme to tyme hereafter to chaunge when and as oft as they ſhall ſeme moſt neceſſarie and behouffull Which psones ſo by theym choſen and named and the seid Maire and his brothern and ſuch parſones as then have been Mayres and Bailles of the seid town for the tyme beyng or the more parte of theym ſhall have and make yerly eleccion of all the Maires and Bailles that hereafter ſhall be Maires and Baileffs of the seid Bourgh and Towne And the eleccion by theym or the more part of them ſo made to ſtond and be goode and effectuell in the Lawe yerly hereafter for ev^o to endure in like man^o fourme and condicion as yf the eleccions werde made by ſuch wey man^o and fourme as aforetyme hath ben used and accuſtumed in of and for the ſame eleccions in the seid Bourgh and Towne And ov^o this that all other officers of the seid Towne that by

the dutie of theire offices owe to be attendant in the Courtes of the same Bourgh and Towne or upon the Maire and Maires and Baillyffes that now be or that hereafter in the said Borough shall be to be electe chosen and made only by the seid Maire and his brethern for the tyme beyng that afore that in tymes past have been Maires of the seid Bourgh and Towne or the more parte of them without assent assemble of any other psones Inhabitauntes of in or for the same Provided alway that if in the seid eleccions or eny of them the voises be divided and eqall for sendry ptis Then the voise of the Maire for the tym beyng to stond and be reputed for ij voises in the same eleccion And yf eny eleccion or eleccions hereafter happ to be made of Maire or Maires Bailles or other officers of the seid Towne in otherwise then by this Acte afore ys reherced Then that eleccion or eleccions to be taken voide and of no strength ne effecte And over this be it ordeyned by the said Auctorite that yf eny of the Inhabitauntes now beyng or that hereafter shalbe inhabited in the seid Bourgh and Towne attempt or do to the breche impedymment or lette of this psent Acte That then the seid psone or psones to forfeit the some of x^s the moyte thereof to be to the Kyng and the other moyte to be to the Maire of the seid Towne for the tyme beyng to employe to the charges of the seid Towne And that yt shall be leeful to the Maire of the seid Bourgh and Towne for the tyme beyng to comytte ev^{ry} such psone or psones to prison within the same Town and Bourgh their to remayn without Baille or Maynpise tyll the seid some or somes of money be fully levyed and paied

Pui quidem Bille plecte δ	Then the same bill being
intellecte p Dñu Regem auctor-	read and passed by the King
itate δ assensu pdcis ut sequit'	by the authority and consent
respondebat'	aforesaid received the following
	reply

Le Roy le vult

The King wills it

This document is not with the muniments of the borough, the preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot : Parl : 4^{to} Hen : VII., n.

Charter of 11th Henry VII.

22ND DECEMBER, 1495.

BY this charter the King granted the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses leave to elect a discreet man and learned in the law as recorder of the town, and two others as justices of the peace, who should have power to hear and determine felonies and misdeeds; that writs and warrants should be directed to, and executed by them; that they should have all fines; and lastly, that they should have two fairs every year each of which was to continue for eight days.

Translation.

HENRY by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland To all and singular Archbishops Bishops Abbots Priors Dukes Earls Barons Justices Sheriffs Mayors Bailiffs Reeves Constables and other our officers ministers faithful liege men and subjects whomsoever as well within liberties as without to whom these present letters shall come Greeting KNOW ye that we of our special grace at the humble supplication of our beloved and faithful subjects the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of our town or borough of Northampton in relief and succour of the same town and the poor inhabitants of the same of our mere motion and certain knowledge have granted and for us and our heirs as much as in us lies by these presents grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of our aforesaid town of Northampton and their successors that the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their successors the future Mayors Bailiffs and Burgesses of the same town every year henceforth for ever on the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel may elect and prefer a discreet man and learned in the law as Recorder of the town aforesaid and two others of their more honest circum-spect and more learned co-burgesses who being so elected and from year to year or from time to time as need shall be to be

elected together with the aforesaid Mayor for the time being be and be made for ever Justices and keepers of the peace of us and our heirs within our town aforesaid the suburbs precincts and fields of the same so that the same Mayor Recorder and two Burgesses three and two of them of whom the aforesaid Recorder always be one may have full power and authority to keep and cause to be kept the peace of us and our heirs and also the statute and ordinances there and at Cambridge of hunters workmen artificers servants hostellers beggars and vagabonds and other mendicant men who call themselves travelling men and likewise the statutes and ordinances at Westminster in the first and second years of the reign of Henry the fourth late King of England for not giving liveries of signs of companies to knights esquires or valets and other liveries of clothes nor in anywise howsoever using the same liveries And also a certain statute passed against Lollards in the Parliament of the Lord Henry the fifth late King of England at Leicester And also a certain other statute likewise passed in the Parliament of the same Henry the fifth at Westminster of counterfeiting clipping washing and other falsifying of the money of our land And also all other ordinances and statutes made and to be made for the good of the peace of us and our heirs and the quiet rule and government of the people of us and our heirs in all and singular their articles within the town liberty and precinct of the same according to the force form and effect of the same and to cause all those who shall act against the form of the same ordinances and statutes and all those who shall threaten any of the people of us or our heirs of their bodies or with firing of their houses to come before them to find sufficient security for the peace and their good conduct towards us and the people of us and our heirs and if they refuse to find such security then to cause them safely to be kept in the prison of us and our heirs within the town aforesaid until they shall find such security And further that they three or two of them of whom the aforesaid Recorder we will to be one be the Justices of us and our heirs to enquire by the oath of good and lawful men of the town liberty and precinct aforesaid by whom the truth of the matter may be the better known of all and all manner of felonies trespasses forestallings regratings and extortions within the town aforesaid the liberty and precinct aforesaid by whomsoever and in

anywise howsoever made or committed and which henceforth shall happen to be done there And also of all other and singular things within the town liberty and precinct aforesaid in anywise howsoever done attempted or perpetrated and which henceforth shall happen to be there done attempted or perpetrated and may have full authority and power to enquire hear and determine all and all manner of felonies trespasses and other misdeeds whatsoever and all matters plaints defects causes and other things whatsoever within the said town liberty and precinct of the same town heretofore or hereafter committed or happening as fully and entirely as the keepers of the peace of us and our heirs or the justices of us or our heirs to keep the peace in any county of England and also to hear and determine divers felonies trespasses and other misdeeds committed in any county of England assigned or to be assigned concerning such felonies trespasses and misdeeds and other the premises in any county of our kingdom of England by virtue of the ordinances and statutes aforesaid or of any ordinances and statutes heretofore made or to be made according to the force form and effect of the letters of us and our heirs to them thereof made and to be made ought and hath been accustomed to be enquired of and to hear and determine all and singular the premises and other things whatsoever within the town liberty and precinct aforesaid made attempted or perpetrated or henceforth to be made attempted or perpetrated which by such Justices or keepers of the peace of us and our heirs and such Justices of us and our heirs to hear and determine such felonies trespasses and misdeeds in any county aforesaid by virtue of the ordinances and statutes aforesaid and our letters aforesaid ought and are accustomed to be discussed and determined may be heard and determined by the same Mayor Recorder and two Burgesses so to be chosen and nominated three or two of them of whom the said Recorder for the time being we will to be one according to the law and custom of our kingdom of England

and the form of the ordinances and statutes aforesaid

NOTA. SO THAT all the writs precepts and other warrants to be made for the premises and every of them be directed to the Ministers of the town aforesaid and by them be executed without any writ precept

or warrant of the Sheriffs or Coroners within the county of Northampton thereof in anywise howsoever to be directed So also that

the keepers of the peace of us and our heirs and such Justices of us and our heirs assigned and to be assigned to hear and determine such felonies trespasses and misdeeds done or perpetrated or to be done or perpetrated in the county of Northampton aforesaid or either of them do not enter within the town liberty or precinct aforesaid to do anything which to keepers of the peace or such Justices there pertain to be done nor that they nor either of them thereof in anything intromit themselves nor either of them intromit himself in anywise howsoever **MOREOVER WE WILL** and of our grace aforesaid and of our certain knowledge and mere motion aforesaid grant for us and our heirs aforesaid to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their successors that they for ever may have all and singular fines issues redemptions and amerciements lost and forfeited and to be lost and forfeited before the aforesaid keepers of the peace of us and our heirs and the Justices of us and our heirs assigned to hear and determine felonies trespasses and misdeeds aforesaid within the town liberty and precinct aforesaid in anywise howsoever forfeited or to be forfeited **AND FURTHER** of our more abundant grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion we have granted and by this our present charter confirmed for us and our heirs to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses that they and their successors for ever may have two fairs or marts within the town aforesaid every year severally in manner and form following to be holden to wit that the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may have and hold one fair or mart of the said two fairs or marts at the said town of Northampton every year for ever on the feast of Saint George the Martyr [April 23rd] and on the day next preceding the same feast and also to continue by six days next immediately following such feast And the other fair of the aforesaid two fairs on the feast of Saint Hugh the Bishop [November 17th] and on the day next preceding the same feast and likewise to continue by six days next following the same feast with all liberties and free customs to such fairs or marts appertaining or belonging Provided the same fairs or marts be not to the nuisance of other neighbouring fairs or marts **WHEREFORE WE WILL** and firmly command for us and our heirs that the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their successors for ever have and hold the fairs or marts aforesaid at the aforesaid town of Northampton as is aforesaid to continue

every year for ever with all liberties and free customs to such fairs or marts or either of them appertaining provided the same fairs or marts be not to the nuisance of neighbouring fairs or marts as is aforesaid Moreover of our special grace we grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town aforesaid that they and their successors may have and hold enjoy and use all and singular such liberties and other franchises privileges customs rights things profits and emoluments with their appurtenances whatsoever as the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses or either of their predecessors by whatsoever names they were known have had and before the date of these presents have been used to have and as they or either of them heretofore by reason of any gift or grant to them made by any of our progenitors or ancestors Kings of England or otherwise had and used or from time whereof the memory of man is not were accustomed to have although the same Mayor Bailiffs or Burgesses or their predecessors have been accustomed to abuse the same liberties franchises customs rights things profits and emoluments or either of them or have not used the same or either of them THESE BEING WITNESSES our most dear eldest son Arthur Prince of Wales Duke of Cornwall and Earl of Chester ¹⁴⁸⁶ The Most Reverend Fathers J the Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury ¹⁴⁸⁷ our Chancellor of England and Thomas Archbishop of York ¹⁴⁸⁸ The Venerable Fathers in Christ R Bishop of Durham ¹⁴⁸⁹ Keeper of our Privy Seal and O Bishop of

¹⁴⁸⁶ Arthur Tudor, son of King Henry VII., was born 20th September, 1486, and at once created Duke of Cornwall. He was created Earl of Chester and Prince of Wales, 1st December, 1489. The young Prince married Katherine of Aragon on the 14th November, 1501. He died the following April.

¹⁴⁸⁷ John Morton, the Clerk of the Rolls, became Bishop of Ely in 1478, and was translated to Canterbury in 1486. He died in 1500, and was buried in Canterbury Cathedral. "He spoke both gracefully and mightily; he was eminently skilled "in the law; he had a comprehensive understanding, and a very retentive memory; "and the excellent talents with which nature had furnished him were improved by "study and discipline."

¹⁴⁸⁸ Thomas Scott, or Rotherham, became Bishop of Rochester in 1468; in 1471 he was translated to Lincoln, and in 1480 to York. He died in 1501, at Cawood, Yorkshire, and was buried in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral.

¹⁴⁸⁹ Richard Fox became Bishop of Exeter in 1487, of Bath and Wells in 1491, of Durham in 1494, and of Winchester in 1500. He founded Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Bishop Fox died in 1529, and was buried in his own chantry in Winchester Cathedral.

Exeter¹⁶⁰ and our most dear second son Henry Duke of York¹⁶¹ and our most dear cousin Edward Duke of Buckingham¹⁶² and also our most dear cousins John Earl of Oxford¹⁶³ Great Chamberlain of England Henry Earl of Northumberland¹⁶⁴ and Thomas Earl of Derby¹⁶⁵ Constable of England and also our beloved and faithful Sir John Dynham of Dynham Knight our Treasurer of England Robert Willoughby of Broke Steward of our Household and Sir Giles of Daubeney Knight Chamberlain of our Household and others GIVEN by our hand at Westminster the twenty second day of December in the eleventh year of our Reign

By the King himself and of the date aforesaid
by authority of Parliament

Clerk

This charter, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in Latin on plain parchment, 31 inches wide and 18 inches deep. Spaces have, as usual, been left in the first line for capital letters, which have not been filled in. Almost the whole of the great seal of England remains attached to the silk and silver gilt twisted cord.

On the back is written:—

"22^o Decembris 11^a Hen. 7^{mi}

¹⁶⁰ Oliver King, chaplain to King Henry VII., and Dean of Windsor, became Bishop of Exeter in 1492, and was translated to Bath and Wells in 1495. He restored, or rather rebuilt Bath Church. Bishop King died in 1503, and was probably buried at Windsor.

¹⁶¹ Henry Tudor, the second son of King Henry VII., was born 28th June, 1491; created Duke of York in 1494. On the death of his brother Arthur, in 1502, he succeeded to the title of Duke of Cornwall. Next year he was created Earl of Chester and Prince of Wales; and on the 22nd April, 1509, he succeeded as King Henry VIII. In 1501 he was said to be "A goodly younge prince."

¹⁶² Edward Stafford, son of the second Duke of Buckingham, was born in 1478, and was restored Duke of Buckingham in 1486. He was styled Earl of Stafford, Buckingham, Hereford, Essex, and Northampton. He was beheaded 17th May, 1521.

¹⁶³ John de Vere, the second son of the twelfth Earl of Oxford, was born in 1443, and succeeded as Earl in 1462. He was "valentissimus miles," attainted in October, 1474, and afterwards restored to all his honours. He died in March, 1513.

¹⁶⁴ Henry Algernon Percy was born in 1478, and succeeded as fifth Earl of Northumberland in 1489. He was judge of the lists at the Field of the Cloth of Gold (10th—23rd June, 1520). He died in 1527.

¹⁶⁵ Thomas Stanley, the son of Thomas, Lord Stanley, was born in 1435, and created Earl of Derby in 1485. He dressed "in a rich gowne, furred with sables, a marveolous riche cheyne of gold many fowldes abowte his necke." He died in 1504.

" The Charter of Hen. 7th for choosing yearly for ever at the
 " feast of S^t. Michael a Recorder of Northton and 2 Burgeses
 " who with the Mayor for the time being are appointed Justices
 " of the pearce of the s^d Town for ever and they 3 or 2 of them
 " (of which the Recorder is always to be one) have power to
 " enquire into hear and determine all felonys Trespases &c.
 " comitted within the Libertys . Herein also is a Grant to the
 " Corporation & their successe for ever of all fines Issues &c.
 " forfeited before the s^d Justices & also a Grant of 2 flairs
 " yearly for ever (vizt) on the feasts of S^t. George the Martyr
 " & St. Hugh the Bp : & on the day next before & for 6 days
 " next after each of the said feasts."

" 18 "

Letters Patent of 11th Henry VII.

11TH FEBRUARY, 1496.

THESE letters patent, which are in the nature of an inspeximus charter, inspect and confirm the charters of 11th and 41st Henry III., 27th Edward I., 8th Richard II., the letters patent of 30th Henry VI., the charter of 38th Henry VI., and the letters patent of 2nd Edward IV.

Translation.

[H]enry by the grace of God [K]ing of [E]ngland and [F]rance and [L]ord of [I]reland [T]o all to whom these present letters shall come Greeting [W]e have inspected the letters patent of the Lord Edward the fourth of noble memory late King of England made in these words Edward by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original letters patent of 2nd Edward IV., 10th July, 1462, printed before at page 92] Now we the charters and letters aforesaid and all and singular the things therein contained ratifying and approving the same for us and our heirs as much as in us is do accept and approve and to our beloved the now Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the aforesaid

town and their successors ratify and confirm in manner as in the charters and letters do more reasonably testify In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness myself at Westminster the 11th day of February in the 11th year of our reign

Exd. by { William Elyot & } Clerks
 { Gilbert Batcheler }

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in Latin on a plain skin of parchment, 36 inches wide and 22 inches deep. Spaces have been left in the first line for the initial letters, which have not been completed. The green and white cord, interwoven with silver gilt wire remains, but the seal has been lost.

On the back is written:—

" 11. feb. 11. Henry 7th."

" A Grant for confirming to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses
" of the Town of Northampton several former Grants within
" recited made to them from the Crown and (amongst others)
" that of the 16th March 11th Hen: 3^d for exempting them from
" the Payment of Toll and Lastage throughout all England &
" the Sea Ports"

" 19"

Letters Patent of 2nd Henry VIII.

14TH FEBRUARY, 1511.

THESE letters patent, which are also of the nature of an inspeximus charter, inspect and confirm the charters of 11th and 41st Henry III., 27th Edward I., 8th Richard II., the letters patent of 30th Henry VI., the charter of 38th Henry VI., the letters patent of 2nd and 18th Edward IV., and the charter and letters patent of 11th Henry VII.

Translation.

Concerning Confirmations for the Burgesses of Northampton.

The King to all to whom &c Greeting We have inspected the letters patent of the Lord Henry the seventh of illustrious

memory late King our father made in these words Henry by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original letters patent of 11th Henry VII., 11th February, 1496, printed before at page 110] We have also inspected the letters patent of the Lord Edward the fourth our progenitor late King of England made in these words Edward by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original letters patent of the 18th Edward IV., 2nd May 1478, printed before at page 93] We have moreover inspected a charter of the aforesaid Lord Henry the seventh of illustrious memory late King of England our father made in these words Henry by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original charter of 11th Henry VII., 22nd December, 1495, printed before at page 104] Now we the charters and letters aforesaid and all and singular the things therein contained ratifying and approving the same for us and our heirs as much as in us is do accept and approve and to our beloved the present Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the aforesaid town and their successors ratify grant and confirm as the charters and letters aforesaid reasonably testify In testimony whereof &c. Witness the King at Westminster the xiiij day of February

For ten marks [i.e. £6. 13s. 4d.] paid into the Hanaper

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Undecima pars Confirm 2^{da} Hen. VIII.

Letters Patent of 5th Henry VIII.

19TH MARCH, 1514.

BY these letters patent the King remitted for ever the sum of £22, part of the farm of the town of Northampton, together with all arrears then due and owing.

Translation.

[H]enry by the grace of God King of [E]ngland and [F]rance and Lord of [I]reland To all to whom the present letters shall come Greeting Whereas the Mayor Bailiffs Men Burgesses and Commonalty of our town of Northampton in our county of Northampton are charged towards us yearly in our Exchequer in the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds for the fee farm of the same town as well by the name of the men of our town aforesaid as by the name of the Burgesses of our town aforesaid Know ye that we of our special grace and certain considerations us especially moving and of our certain knowledge and mere motion have pardoned remised and released and by these presents for us and our heirs and successors do pardon remise and release for ever to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs Men Burgesses and Commonalty of our town of Northampton in the county aforesaid and every of them their heirs and successors for ever or by whatsoever other name they are or were called or deemed incorporated twenty two pounds parcel of the aforesaid one hundred and twenty pounds yearly of fee farm for the town aforesaid of which the same Mayor Bailiffs Men Burgesses and Commonalty of the said town or some of them is or are charged towards us yearly in our Exchequer aforesaid of record by the name of the Burgesses or Men of our town aforesaid or any other name whatsoever for the fee farm aforesaid And moreover of our more abundant grace we grant by these presents to the same

Mayor Bailiffs Men Burgesses and Commonalty of our town aforesaid and their heirs and successors that they of the aforesaid twenty two pounds parcel of the aforesaid one hundred and twenty pounds of the fee farm aforesaid yearly from the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel in the twenty fourth year of the reign of the Lord Henry the seventh late King of England our father hitherto issuing growing due and unpaid towards us our heirs and successors be quit and altogether discharged And further we pardon remise and release all and singular the arrears of the same twenty two pounds parcel of the aforesaid one hundred and twenty pounds for the fee farm aforesaid now being behind to the same Mayor Bailiffs Men Burgesses and Commonalty of the town aforesaid and all and singular the same arrears we give and grant to them by these presents To hold to them of our gift as well to be retained in their own hands or to be received by the hands of the Sheriffs Escheators Receivers Bailiffs or other our officers and ministers whomsoever without the impeachment molestation interruption disturbance or grievance of us our heirs or successors Justices Barons of our Exchequer Sheriffs Escheators Receivers or other the officers or ministers whomsoever of us our heirs or successors or either of them and without any account answer or reason or any other thing to us our heirs and successors aforesaid or either of them for the aforesaid twenty two pounds or any part thereof or for the arrears of the same in any wise hereafter to be rendered paid or done although express mention of the true yearly value of the premises or any of them or of other gifts or grants to the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and to the same Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses Men and Commonalty and their successors or either of them or to any of their predecessors heretofore made by us or by any of our progenitors or predecessors late Kings of England be not made in these presents or any statute act or ordinance to the contrary thereof made passed or ordained or any other thing cause or matter whatsoever in any wise notwithstanding In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent Witness myself at Westminster the nineteenth day of March in the fifth year of our reign

By writ of privy seal and of the date aforesaid
by authority of Parliament

Yong

Indorsed.

Inrolled with memoranda of the exchequer of the sixth year of the reign of King Henry the eighth to wit amongst the records of the term of Easter beginning the said sixth year Roll 4 on the part of the Treasurer's Remembrancer.

This pardon of the fee farm of the town of Northampton was prosecuted and obtained by William Alward John Janes otherwise called John Bukby late Bailiffs of the town aforesaid and other inhabitants of the same and was allowed upon the account of the said late Bailiffs in the term of Easter in the sixth year of King Henry the 8th.

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in Latin, on plain parchment, 30 inches wide and 12 inches deep. Spaces have been left in the first line for the initial letters, which have not, however, been filled in. The cord worked through the lower edge is composed of green and white silk, twisted with silver gilt wire. The seal has been lost.

On the back is written:—

"19^o Marcij 5^o Hen. 8^a"

"Grant whereby Henry the Eighth remits to the Corporation
"of Northampton and their Successors for ever 22^d part of their
"annual fee farm Rent of 120^l"

"20"

"pdon Henrici viij p xxij"

Letters Patent of 1st Edward VI.

27TH OCTOBER, 1541.

THESE letters patent also, simply inspect and confirm the charters of 11th and 41st Henry III., 27th Edward I., 8th Richard II., the letters patent of 30th Henry VI., the charter of 38th Henry VI., the letters patent of 2nd and 18th Edward IV., the charter and letters patent of 11th Henry VII., and the letters patent of 2nd Henry VIII.

Translation.



EDWARD THE SIXTH BY THE GRACE OF GOD OF ENGLAND FRANCE AND IRELAND King Defender of the Faith and the supreme head of the church in England and Ireland TO ALL to whom these present letters shall come Greeting WE HAVE

INSPECTED the letters patent of Henry the eighth formerly King of England our dearest father made in these words Henry by the grace of God [and so forth, repeating the whole of the original letters patent of 2nd Henry VIII., 14th February, 1511, printed before at page 111.]

NOW WE the charters and letters aforesaid and all and singular the things therein contained ratifying and granting the same for us and our heirs so much as in us is do accept and approve and to our beloved the now Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town aforesaid and their successors ratify grant and confirm as in the charters and letters aforesaid do more reasonably testify IN TESTIMONY whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent WITNESS myself at Westminster the 27th day of October in the first year of our reign

For seven pounds paid into the Hanpio

Exd pp me Wilm Ermysted

Georgm Throkmarton

The initial E is a reproduction of that on the charter.

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in Latin on two skins of parchment, 37 inches wide and 22 inches deep.

The first line is highly ornamented. The initial E encloses a portrait of the infant king, clothed with an ermine lined robe, and seated on his throne, above which is written VIVAT. REX. The King is crowned, and holds in his right hand the sceptre, and in his left the orb, but he does not wear the insignia of the garter. The other initial letters are beautifully drawn and ornamented. Over the line are the following heraldic devices:—A shield bearing a Saint George's cross, within the garter, on which is written, "Hony soyt qvy mal y pense." A double rose surmounted by a crown; a lion sejant guardant, bearing a banner, on which is a fleur de lys, on the dexter; and a dragon sejant, bearing a banner, on which is also a Saint George's cross, on the sinister side. A fleur de lys, without crown. And a portcullis, also without crown. The inner skin is unornamented. The green and white silk cord still remains, but the seal is missing.

On the back is written:—

"21"

"Edward. 6."

Letters Patent of 1st & 2nd Philip & Mary.

15TH OCTOBER, 1554.

THESE letters patent, again inspect and confirm the charters of 11th and 41st Henry III., 27th Edward I., 8th Richard II., the letters patent of 30th Henry VI., the charter of 38th Henry VI., the letters patent of the 2nd and 18th Edward IV., the charter and letters patent of 11th Henry VII., and the letters patent of 2nd Henry VIII., and 1st Edward VI.

The first line is highly ornamented, it bears a striking resemblance in style to the letters patent of 1st Edward VI., and is probably by the same penman. Within the initial P is a full length representation of the King seated on his throne, wearing an open crown, and clad in robe with ermine tippet, bearing in his right hand the sceptre, and in his left the orb; above the throne is written VIVAT.REX. Within the initial M is a half length representation of the Queen, wearing an arched crown; above the throne is written VIVAT.REGINA. The other initial letters are also beautifully drawn and ornamented. Over the first line are the following heraldic devices:—A triple rose crowned. The lion and dragon both sejant, each bearing a banneret, on which is the fleur de lys. The rose and pomegranate used by Katherine of Aragon, uncrowned. And a fleur de lys, also uncrowned. The second skin is plain.

Part of the great seal of England, as used by Queen Mary, remains attached to the green and white silk cord.

On the back of this document is written only:—

"22"

Letters Patent of 41st Elizabeth.

3RD APRIL, 1599.

IT was not long before a new charter was required by the corporation. In 1595 the assembly agreed that there "shalbe" "suite made forthwith for the renewing and enlarging of the" "Charter and liberties of this borough that ys to saye that the" "Maior for the tyme being maye be Justice of Quorum within" "the same towne and liberties thereof. And the Bayliffes for" "the tyme being maye levye and take tole and custome of all" "manner of cattell bought or solde within the same towne;" "And that also the Maior Bayliffes and Burgesses maye have" "and injoye suche other liberties and priviledges graunted them" "as heretofore they have sued for; and that the charges in this" "suite shalbe born out and defrayed by the town echamber from" "tyme to tyme everie kynde of waye."

On the 5th January, 1598-9, it was notified to the assembly that a sum of eighty pounds was needed to pay for the procuring and bringing down of the new charter. It was there-upon proposed and carried that the money should be raised by selling in advance the hay crops of the West Holmes and Abbots Meadow (part of the lordship of Duston) for the next two years.

These letters patent were therefore granted by the Queen. They do not inspect and confirm the previous grants, but are drawn on new and more extended lines.

The Queen granted that Northampton should be a free and corporate town, ruled by mayor, two bailiffs and company of eight and forty, and a recorder. That the mayor bailiffs and burgesses should have the custody of the orphans of burgesses. And that they should have seven fairs during the year, and a market three times during the week.

This grant being very lengthy and verbose is here only shortly abstracted.

Abbreviated Translation.

Of a Grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton and their successors for ever.

THE QUEEN TO ALL to whom &c GREETING WHEREAS Northampton is a very ancient and populous town and from ancient times was incorporate and the inhabitants have enjoyed privileges the grants of former Kings which have been made to them by various names some as the Burgesses of Northampton some as the Mayor and Commonalty and some as the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses AND WHEREAS our beloved subjects the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses have besaught us to show them grace and by letters patent to confirm the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and to add further liberties WE therefore graciously desiring the amelioration of the town and that it should be a town of peace to the dread and terror of the evil and the reward of the good grant that Northampton shall be a free town of itself and that the Burgesses shall be one body corporate by the name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton

and that they shall be persons fit and in the law capable to have and possess lands and tenements hereditaments and franchises and also goods and chattels And also to give demise and grant the same AND to plead and be impleaded answer and be answered in any courts in all plaints and pleas AND to have a common seal and break the same and have a new one AND WE grant that three of the more honest and discreet Burgesses shall be elected as Mayor and Bailiffs of the town AND that there shall be forty eight good and discreet men dwelling in the town who have never been Mayor nor Bailiffs who shall be called the Company of Eight and forty AND that the two Bailiffs and such other Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs together with the Company of Eight and forty shall be called the Common Council of the town and shall assist and aid the Mayor in all things touching the town AND further that the Mayor Bailiffs and such Burgesses of the town with the Company of Eight and forty shall have power to frame such laws as to them seem good and wholesome for the conduct of the Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses and artificers of the town and for the rule and victualling of the town And for levying money for the government of the lands and tenements of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses AND that they may impose and assess reasonable pains and penalties imprisonment of body or amerciements as to them shall seem reasonable AND shall levy the same to the use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses Which laws we will to be observed so nevertheless that the same are not repugnant to the laws or statutes of the kingdom of England AND for the better execution of these grants we assign and nominate our beloved Thomas Humfrey¹⁵⁷ the now Mayor to be the first and present Mayor AND that he shall continue in the office of Mayor from the date of this charter until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel and until another Burgess shall be appointed and sworn to the office provided he so long live AND we assign and constitute our beloved Thomas Bradford¹⁵⁸ and Francis Fisher¹⁵⁸ the then

¹⁵⁷ Thomas Humfrey was Mayor of the town in 1587-8, when there was a great flood, which reached almost to St. John's Hospital, "so that all the south quarter, both men, women, and children, were constrained to be brought up into the town on horseback. It drove away many houses and much household stuff." Thomas Humfrey was Mayor again in 1598-9.

¹⁵⁸ Thomas Bradford was afterwards Mayor of the town in 1610-1, and Francis Fisher in 1608-9.

Bailiffs to be the first and present Bailiffs AND that they shall continue in the office of Bailiffs until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel or until two other Burgesses shall be appointed provided they so long live AND WE grant that the Mayor for the time being and other Burgesses who have been Mayors shall nominate and elect such Burgesses as shall seem to them necessary to be the forty eight Burgesses commonly called the Company of Eight and forty who shall continue for their natural lives unless amoved according to the custom of the town AND WE grant that the Mayor and Bailiffs of the town for the time being and such Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs or the greater part of them shall have power within four days next after the first day of September called the feast of Saint Giles to assemble in the Guildhall or some other convenient place in the town and there to continue until they have in accordance with the statute passed in the 4th Henry VII. [hereinbefore printed at page 101] elected and nominated one Burgess to be the Mayor for the year following who before he shall be admitted to execute the same office shall take his oath "upon the Holy Evangelists of God yearly on the "Utas¹⁰⁹ of the said feast of Saint Michael the Archangel" before the last Mayor or the Recorder according to ancient custom to faithfully execute the same office until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next following or until another Burgess should be appointed AND WE further grant that the Mayor and Bailiffs and such Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of Eight and forty shall have power to assemble themselves in the same manner as before mentioned and elect two of the Company of Eight and forty to be Bailiffs for one year following the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel who shall take a similar oath before the Mayor or Recorder AND WE further grant that if it shall happen that the Mayor shall die or from his office be amoved it shall be lawful for the Bailiffs the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of Eight and forty to elect another Burgess in his place and that they shall be able in a similar manner to elect Bailiffs in the place of any dying or being amoved and that they shall be able in a similar manner to elect Burgesses in the place of any of the Company of Eight and

¹⁰⁹ The Utas was the seventh day after the feast, or the eighth if the day of the feast be included.

forty dying or being amoved as aforesaid AND WE further grant that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may "have for ever one "honest and discreet man learned in the laws of this Kingdom of "England" to be the Recorder of the town AND WE nominate our beloved Christopher Yelverton¹⁷⁰ our Sergeant at law to be the first and present Recorder of the town to continue until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next following if he so long live and after his death or amoval the Mayor Bailiffs and greater part of the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of Eight and forty may nominate another from time to time as Recorder who shall also take an oath AND WE further grant that the Mayor and Burgesses or the greater part of them shall have license to nominate such Bailiffs and other officers for the good service of the town as they shall think necessary AND WE grant that the Mayor and Recorder the Burgess who has been last Mayor and one other circumspect Burgess whom the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses who have been Mayors and Bailiffs or the greater part of them shall choose to be the Justices to keep the peace in the town and the statutes of artificers and weights and measures and that they or any two of them (of whom the Mayor or Recorder is to be one) shall hear and determine all trespasses or other things which to the office of Justice of the Peace belong as amply as other Justices of the Peace in any other city can do PROVIDED the Mayor Recorder or the two Burgesses shall not determine any murther felony or other matter touching the loss of life or member within the town without our special mandate AND WE further grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses "all those lands tenements and "hereditaments whatsoever commonly called or named the chamber "lands" lying near the town of Northampton which they have hitherto held to hold the same to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses for ever rendering therefore yearly to the Queen such and the like rents and services which have heretofore been paid or rendered for the same AND WE desiring to provide for the safety

¹⁷⁰ Christopher Yelverton purchased the Manor of Easton Mauduit in 1579. He was one of the representatives of the county at the Parliaments held at Westminster in the 13th and 39th Elizabeth. He was also Sergeant-at-Law, Speaker of the House of Commons, and a Judge of the Queen's Bench. Christopher Yelverton married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Catesoy, of Ecton, by whom he had issue Henry, of whom more hereafter, who succeeded to the Manor of Easton Mauduit on his father's death in 1613.

of orphans and infants who shall happen to be in the town and that their goods shall be faithfully kept during their minority Grant that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses shall have the custody of the orphans of any Burgesses and shall collect and cause to be kept in the common treasury by the Chamberlain all goods and chattels belonging to the said orphans and deliver the same with increase to them in the same manner as is done in the city of London With all rights of actions on account of the same AND WE further grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses all manors tenements tolls customs franchises and jurisdictions which they hold use or enjoy by virtue of any charters or customs rendering for the same to us such rents and services as they have been accustomed to pay or render without let or hindrance by us or our Justices Sheriffs or Escheator AND WHEREAS we being credibly informed that the Mayor of the town "from time whereof the memory of man is not" has been accustomed to receive recognisances according to the form of the statute merchant and the statute of Acton Burnell GRANT that the Mayor shall have authority to receive such recognisances and we constitute our beloved George Goldwell the present common Clerk of the town commonly called the Town Clerk to be the first and present Clerk and to receive and write such recognisances to continue from the date of this charter to the next feast of Saint Michael the Archangel "if he shall so long live and well conduct "himself" and until another fit person shall be sworn in AND that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses shall according to custom yearly within four days next following the feast of Saint Giles elect a fit person to be common Clerk or Prothonotary to write such recognisances AND WE further grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses that they for ever may have yearly seven fairs or marts The first to be on the feast of Saint George the Martyr [April 23rd] the second on the feast of Saint Hugh the Bishop [November 17th] the third on the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary [January 1st] the fourth on the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary [March 25th] the fifth on the feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary [December 8th] the sixth on the day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary [August 15th] and the seventh on the feast of Saint James the Apostle [December 27th] Each such fair to continue for the day preceding and the day following such feast AND WE grant to the

Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses that they may hold a free market within the town on the Wednesday Friday and Saturday in every week by the year with tolls and liberties pertaining thereto so that the same be not to the nuisance of neighbouring fairs and that they may levy reasonable tolls for animals and other things sold in such markets which they may hold and enjoy without the let or hindrance of us or our Justices Sheriffs or Escheators ALSO WE will &c WITHOUT fine in the Hanaper &c ALTHOUGH express mention &c IN TESTIMONY &c WITNESS the Queen at Westminster the third of April

By writ of privy seal &c

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the Borough. The preceding transcript has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot: Pat: 41^{mo} Eliz. p. 1.

Letters Patent of 16th James I.

20TH APRIL, 1618.

THESE letters patent are very like those granted by Queen Elizabeth, though somewhat wider. The hamlets of Cotton End, West Cotton, and Saint James' End are for the first time included in the precincts of the town. Five burgesses, who had been previously mayors, are also appointed as aldermen to act with the mayor. The time for the election of the mayor and other officers is changed from a period of four days after the feast of Saint Giles [September 1st] to a period of ten days from the first of August. The jurisdiction of the mayor, recorder and two other burgesses is also increased to enable them to enquire and determine all murders felonies and other crimes without special commission. The sheriff and county justices are directed not to execute precepts or exercise jurisdiction in Cotton End, West Cotton, or Saint James' End. And the mayor and burgesses are authorised

to hold a court of record. The mayor is to be clerk of the market. And the town is to have the goods of all felons. All freemen of the town are exempted from serving on juries in the county of Northampton, or elsewhere out of the town. Freemen though not living in the town, may be chosen to any office, and are liable to be fined or imprisoned if they do not accept office. All persons, except burgesses, are forbidden to sell any goods in the town. And the corporation received a license in mortmain to purchase and hold lands not exceeding in value fifty pounds annually.

The other provisions of this grant are similar to those contained in the previous grant of Queen Elizabeth.

Abbreviated Translation.

Indictment.

JAMES by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c. TO ALL to whom these present letters shall come sends Greeting WHEREAS the town of Northampton is a very ancient and populous incorporated town and the Bailiffs Burgesses and Inhabitants have held liberties franchises and privileges being the grants of former Kings and Queens of England AND WHEREAS the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses have besought us that certain places near the town called Cotton End and West Cotton¹⁷¹ in the parish of Hardingstone and a place called Saint James End¹⁷² in the parishes of Duston and Dallington (such places being then out of the jurisdiction of the town) where malefactors sometimes concealed themselves and many artificers not being free burgesses resided and practised their arts to the prejudice of the Burgesses should be annexed to the town and the inhabitants placed under the government of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses AND that all the previous grants to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses should be confirmed WE for

¹⁷¹ These suburbs joined the town on the south, and formed part of the parish of Hardingstone, in the hundred of Wymersley. They were incorporated in the borough precincts by this grant, but appear to have passed back to the county at some subsequent period.

¹⁷² This suburb joined the town on the west, on the road leading to Rugby, and formed part of the parishes of Duston and Dallington, in the hundred of No-bottle Grove. It was incorporated in the borough precincts by this grant, but appears to have passed back to the county at some subsequent period.

the amendment of the town and the keeping of the peace there of our special grace and at the instance of our beloved and faithful servant Sir Henry Yelverton Knight the Attorney General and Recorder of the town grant that the town of Northampton and the precinct thereof shall stretch itself and comprise the several places of Cotton End West Cotton and Saint James' End and that the inhabitants and the houses and edifices in these places shall be and be reputed to be within the precinct of the town (hereafter called the town) and that the residents within these places shall be under the rule of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses AND WE further grant that the town of Northampton shall be a free town of itself and that the Burgesses shall be a body corporate and politic by the name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton with perpetual succession power to hold lands and tenements goods and chattels and to grant and assign the same and to plead and be impleaded in any courts of justice and to use a common seal and to break or change it or make a new seal AND that three of the more honest and discreet Burgesses shall be elected as and be called the Mayor and Bailiffs of the town and also that there shall be forty eight honest and discreet men dwelling in the town who have never been Mayors nor Bailiffs of the town who shall be called the company of eight and forty And that the Mayor Bailiffs and Company of Eight and forty shall be called the Common Council of the town and shall assist the Mayor in all matters touching the town And that the Mayor and Bailiffs of the town for the time being and such Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs together with the company of eight and forty or the greater part of them (and of which greater part the Mayor and five other Burgesses who have been or hereafter shall be Mayors commonly called Aldermen of the town whom we will to be six) shall have authority to frame such reasonable laws and ordinances as shall seem to them good wholesome and necessary for the rule of the town and for declaring in what manner the inhabitants of the town shall conduct and employ themselves and for the good rule and amelioration of the town and the victualling of the same and for levying money for our use and the uses of the town And for the preservation and government of the lands and hereditaments granted to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their successors And that the Mayor and Bailiffs for the time being and such Burgesses who shall have been

At the special request of Sir Henry Yelverton Knight His Majesty's attorney General Recorder of the Towne.

Extent of y^e town.

Annexation of Cotton End and West Cotton & St. James End.

That the Towne with the partes annexed shall be a free Towne.

Name of the Corporation.

Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Towne of Northton.

Able to purchase lands, &c to plead and be impleaded, Common Seal.
1. Mayor.
2. Bailiffs.
The company of Eight and forty.

Common Counsell.

Power to make lawes.

The Mayor and Aldermen to be of the quorum.

To punish transgressors by Imprisonments Fynes or Amercement.

To levy Fynes and Amerciements by distress &c.

George Rainsford Mayor.

Roger Wilkinson and Abraham Myners Bayliffs.

Mayor and Aldermen to chuse the 48.

The Company of 48 to continue for their lives unless for reasonable cause they be removed

That ye Mayor and such as hath bene Mayor shall have power to remove any of ye then counsell Election of ye Mayor to be by ye present mayor and baillifs within x days after the 1 of August. Mayor and Baillifs assembled not to depart until ye new Mayor been chosen. Mayor to take his othe before the precedent Mayor or Recorder.

Mayors or Bailiffs and the company of eight and forty or the greater part of them (and of which greater part the Mayor and such other Burgesses who shall have been Mayors commonly called Aldermen we will to be six) as often as they shall frame such laws may impose such pains and penalties of body or amerciements upon all delinquents against such laws as to them shall seem reasonable and may levy the fines by distress or otherwise for the use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses* without accounting to us for the same All which laws we will to be observed provided there is nothing therein contained repugnant to the laws or customs of the kingdom of England Notwithstanding the statute of the 4th of Henry VII. [hereinbefore printed at page 101] concerning the company of eight and forty or any other statute or charter to the contrary AND WE nominate our beloved George Rainsford¹⁷³ the now Mayor to be the Mayor from the date of this charter to the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel and until another Burgess shall be appointed AND WE nominate our beloved Roger Wilkinson and Abraham Myners [or Minard] the now Bailiffs to continue for a like term AND the Mayor for the time being with such Burgesses who have been Mayors shall elect and make such Burgesses as shall seem to them necessary to be the company of eight and forty which Burgesses shall continue for life unless for a reasonable cause they shall be amoved from the office AND the Mayor for the time being with such Burgesses who have been Mayors of the town or the greater part of them shall have power to amove from his office for reasonable cause such Burgess who shall be Mayor AND the Mayor for the time being with such Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs or the greater part of them shall have power every year within ten days next following the first day of August to assemble in the Guildhall or some other convenient place in the town and there to continue until they have in accordance with the aforesaid statute of 4th Henry VII. elected one of the Burgesses to be Mayor who before executing such office shall take his "oath upon the Holy Evangelists of God yearly on the Utas of the feast of Saint Michael the "Archangel" before the last Mayor or the Recorder according to

* Second skin.

¹⁷³ George Rainsford, or Raynsford, was Mayor of the town in 1595-6, 1603-4 and 1617-8.

ancient custom well and faithfully to execute the office of Mayor of the town aforesaid until the next feast of Saint Michael or until another Burgess shall be appointed AND that the Mayor Bailiffs and such Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of Eight and forty shall have power in a similar manner to elect two of the Company of Eight and forty to be Bailiffs who shall take a similar oath And further that if the Mayor die within the year or from his office be amoved it shall be lawful for the Bailiffs and the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of Eight and forty or the greater part of them to nominate another Burgess in the place of him so dead or from his office amoved AND if the Bailiffs shall die or from their office be amoved the Mayor and Bailiffs and the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs or the greater part of them shall in a similar manner elect one or two of the Company of the Eight and forty in the place of the Bailiff or Bailiffs dead or amoved and they shall take a similar oath AND if any of the Company of Eight and forty shall die or be amoved (whom for reasonable causes shall be amoveable at the pleasure of the Mayor and such Burgesses who have been Mayors) it shall be lawful for the Mayor and Burgesses who have been Mayors or the greater part of them in a similar manner to elect one or more of the Burgesses in the place of the Burgess or Burgesses so dead or amoved and they shall take a similar oath AND WE further grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses that they may have for ever one honest and discreet man learned in the laws of the kingdom of England to be called Recorder of the town AND WE nominate Sir Henry Yelverton¹⁷⁴ as the first Recorder of the town for the term of his natural life and that after his death the Mayor Bailiffs and greater part of the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of the Eight and forty may elect an honest and discreet man as Recorder of the town and that

The Bailiffs to be elected by Mayor Bailiffs & Burgesses that have bene Mayors & Bayliffs and by the 48.

Bailiffs to be sworne before the Mayor or Recorder.

Death or removal of ye Maior.

Death or removal of the Bailiffs.

The Bailiffs to be chosen out the 48.

Recorder.

Sir Henry Yelverton Recorder.

Election of ye Recorder.

¹⁷⁴ Henry, the son of Christopher Yelverton, was born at Easton Mauduit in 1566, and educated at Oxford, and Gray's Inn, London. Henry Yelverton was one of the representatives of the town at the Parliaments held in 39th Elizabeth, and 1st James I. In 1613 he was made Solicitor-General, and received the honour of knighthood. He succeeded Sir Francis Bacon as Attorney-General in 1617. For offending the King he was degraded and imprisoned in the Tower; but being soon released, he was appointed Judge of Common Pleas. Sir Henry Yelverton died in 1629, and was buried in Easton Mauduit Church, where there is a long inscription to his memory.

Election of ye
Chamblens by
the Ma^r &
Aldermen.

The Mayor
Recorder pre-
sident Mayor
& Aldermen to
be Justices of
ye peace.

Mayor and
Recorder to
heare and
determin
murders
felonies &c.

Without Com-
mission or
speciall warrant
from the King.

No forraine
Justice of peace
to intermeddle
in ye Towne.

Tho: Martyn
Tho: Cooper
Justices of peace

he who shall be so elected shall exercise the office of Recorder till the feast of Saint Michael then next following having first taken an oath AND THAT they shall have authority to elect so many and such Chamberlains* and other officers for the good service of the town as they have been accustomed to do MOREOVER WE grant that the Mayor and Recorder of the town for the time being and the Burgess who was the last Mayor and one other of the more honest Burgesses of the town as the Mayor and Bailiffs of the town and such Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs or the greater part of them shall elect shall be the Justice and Justices to keep the peace and keep and correct the statutes concerning vagabonds artificers and labourers weights and measures in the town and do all other things which pertain to the office of Justice AND THAT the Mayor Recorder and such two Burgesses and any three of them (of whom the Mayor and Recorder shall be two) shall have full power to inquire hear and determine within the town all murders felonies misprisons riots routs oppressions extortions forestalling regratings trespasses offences things matters and articles and other things which to the office of Justice of the peace pertain or which ought to be enquired of together with the punishment thereof And to do and execute all things within the town in as ample a manner as could be done by Justices of the peace in the county of Northampton or elsewhere by virtue of any commission or act of Parliament And this without any special commission The letters patent of the 41st of Queen Elizabeth [hereinbefore printed at page 119] or any other letters patent acts or customs to the contrary notwithstanding AND also that the Justices in the county of Northampton within the town or the places of Cotton End West Cotton and Saint James' End do not in anywise intromit or exercise jurisdiction of matters which to Justices of the peace of the town by virtue of these letters patent appertain And that the Bailiffs of the town may execute the precepts of the Mayor Recorder or Justices within the same as any Sheriff by mandate of a Justice of the peace has been accustomed to do in any county of the kingdom of England AND FURTHER we nominate George Rainsford the now Mayor Sir Henry Yelverton Knight the Attorney General now Recorder and Thomas Martin and Thomas Cooper two Burgesses to be the

* Third skin.

present Justices of the peace with full powers to act as aforesaid
 AND WE grant that every Mayor for the time being shall be
 the Escheator within the town during the time he shall be Mayor
 having taken his oath well and faithfully to execute the office of
 Escheator and that no other Escheator presume to intromit in the
 town AND WE grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses
 that they may for ever have and hold one Court of Record in
 the Guildhall to be holden before the Mayor and Bailiffs for the
 time being of all pleas plaints and actions as well real as
 personal and mixed and of any debts or trespasses whatsoever
 with views of frankpledge and leets within the town on such
 days and in such manner as hath been accustomed and render
 judgment and make execution thereof AND that all juries im-
 pannelled inquisitions and other things may do and execute any
 act touching the causes aforesaid AND the Mayor Bailiffs and
 Burgesses shall have to the use of the town all manner of
 amerciaments arising from the same And that they may have
 return of all writs and precepts of the King and summonses
 of the Exchequer within the town so that no Sheriff nor Bailiff
 of us presume to enter the town or precincts or execute sum-
 monses or attachments of Pleas of the Crown unless in default
 of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses AND that the Mayor for
 time being shall be Clerk of the Market and after he has taken
 his oath he shall occupy that office and perform all things to
 the same appertaining without molestation by any other officer
 AND for the amelioration of the town because the walls are in
 great decay we grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses all
 manner of fines and amerciaments of all the Burgesses resiant
 and non-resiants within the town forfeited or lost before the
 Justices of us assigned in the county of Northampton and before
 the Justices of us assigned to take the assizes and deliver the
 gaol and to keep the peace and hear and determine felonies
 and trespasses in the County of Northampton and before the
 Clerk of the Market and before the Justices or Commissioners*
 itinerant and the Justices assigned for the statutes of sewers in the
 County of Northampton and before the Mayor Recorder and two
 Burgesses for the time being or three of them being Justices of
 the peace within the town and before the Mayor being the Clerk

Mayor to be
Escheator.

To hold the
Court of Record
as anciently
was used.

Returne of
Writs.

The Mayor
to be Clarke of
ye market.

Grant of all
fines fines &
amerciaments
before Justices
of Assize
Justices of
peace &c.

* Fourth skin.

Goodes and
chattells of
felons.

Recognizances
forfeited.

Power to sue in
the kinges name
for illes tyues
amerciaments
Recognizances
forfeitures &c.

Mandamus to
the La: Tres &
officers of ye
Exchequer after
ye recovery &
levying of ye
aues tyues &c.

To deliver them
out of the Exch:
to ye Mayor &c.

Chamberlands
confirmed.

Orphanes
Court.

of the Market within the town and before the Steward and Marshal of the Household of us and before the several Escheators as well of the county as of the town of Northampton and also before other Justices of us AND FURTHER we grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses "all and singular deodands¹⁷⁵ "chattels estrays goods and chattels debts rights and credits of "felons fugitives felons of themselves¹⁷⁶ persons outlawed and put "in exigent and others whomsoever attainted convicted or con- "demned from time to time" in the town And all forfeitures profits and recognizances taken before the Mayor Recorder or other Justices And that it should be lawful for them to seize such amerciaments by their Ministers without writs or processes from the Exchequer any law or custom to the contrary notwithstanding And the same to have and to hold to the proper use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses without disturbance by us or our Justices Sheriffs Escheators Coroners or others and for levying the same we grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses in their name or in our name to recover the same against any person in any court of Record and the same to convert to the use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses And we command our Treasurer Chancellor Under Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer and other officers that they procure such writs as may be required according to the custom of the Exchequer against any person charged And after levying to pay the same to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses without account And that the present grant or an enrollment thereof shall be sufficient warrant in this behalf AND FURTHER we grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses all those lands and hereditaments called Chamber Lands situate near the town of Northampton which the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses have held by any incorporation of any letters patent or grants "And also all and singular wastes "void grounds purpestures and approvements within the town" To hold the same to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses rendering therefore yearly to us such rents and services which to us or our progenitors have been paid AND we desiring "to provide

¹⁷⁵ Deodand is a thing forfeited, as it were, to God. Thus an instrument or thing by which a person meets a violent death is to be dedicated to God, that is sold for the benefit of the poor.

¹⁷⁶ Persons who committed suicide.

"for the safety defence and management of the orphans and "infants" who shall happen to be in the town and that their goods and chattels shall be preserved and laid out for the advantage of such orphans and infants during their minority grant that the Mayor and his brethren who have been Mayors of the town shall have the custody and government of the orphans of any Burgess dying in the town with authority to levy and keep in the common treasury of the town by the chamberlain of the town goods chattels and legacies found or being of any orphans of any Burgesses happening to die and the same to lay out and use for the advantage of the same orphans and that they pay and deliver the increase and profits thereof to the orphans at such age and in the same manner as is used in the city of London with such actions and remedies for the ravishment of any orphans in the town and all such officers for the better government of the orphans their goods and chattels which have been used in the city of London with power to execute and do such things touching the orphans and their goods and chattels as have been accustomed to be done in the city of London AND WHEREAS we have been credibly informed that the Mayor and his successors by whatsoever names they have been called or incorporated "from time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary" have raised and received recognizances between merchant and merchant and made execution according to the statute of merchants and the statutes of Acton Burnell in that case made and provided NOW WE therefore grant and confirm that the Mayor may have full power and authority to receive recognizances and make execution thereof according to the said statute of merchants and the said statute of Acton Burnell AND WE nominate our beloved Tobias Coldwell the now Common Clerk of the town commonly called the Town Clerk to be the first and present Clerk to receive and write the recognizances and to continue in the office of Clerk from the date of these letters patent to the feast of Saint Michael next if he so long live and well conduct himself and until some other proper person be elected according to the custom of the town And that the Mayor and such Burgesses who have been Mayors of the town according to the custom of the town or the greater part of them nominate within ten days after the first day of August a fit man to be Town Clerk AND WE grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses that they

Mayor & Aldermen to have the custody of Orphans.

Goods & chattels of orphans to be kept in the common Treasury of ye Towne.

Mayor to take statute Merchant.

Toby Coldwell Town Clerk & Clarke of ye Statutes.

7 faires.

1. St. George.
2. St. Hughe.
3. The birth of our lady
4. Annunciation of our lady
5. Conception of the Virgin Mary.
6. Assumption of our lady.
7. Saint James date

Markett daies.

Wensdaye
Frydaye &
Saterdaye
weekly.

Toll granted.

Exemption
from juries
out of the
Towne.

may for ever have seven fairs or marts yearly within the town to be holden in the following manner and form to wit That the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses hold the first on the feast of Saint George the Martyr [April 23rd] the second on the feast of Saint Hugh the Bishop [November 17th] the third on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary [January 1st] the fourth on the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary [March 25th] the fifth on the feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary [December 8th] the sixth on the day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary [August 15th] and the seventh on the feast of Saint James the Apostle [December 27th] Each fair to commence on the day next preceding and to be continued on the day next following each feast AND ALSO that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may as heretofore accustomed "have and hold a free market on every Wednesday Friday and "Saturday in every week by the year for ever with toll and all "liberties courts of Piepowder¹⁷⁷ and free customs" so that such fairs and markets be not to the nuisance of neighbouring fairs and markets AND we command that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may for ever have and hold such fairs and markets and levy such reasonable tolls or tributes for beasts animals and other things sold or bought in the fairs and markets aforesaid as of right are levied in any town borough or city in the county of Northampton AND THAT they may hold and enjoy all the said liberties and free customs according to the effect of these letters patent without impediment by us or by our Justices Sheriffs Escheators or other Bailiffs or Ministers AND WE further grant that the Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses and free men of the town shall not be impannelled in any appeals juries assizes or inquisitions before any Justices assigned to take assizes or writs of Nisi Prius or to hear and determine treasons felonies or misdeeds within the county of Northampton or any other Justices or before the Commissioners of the Sewers or any other Commissioners or the Escheator or other Bailiffs or ministers of us out of the town or forfeit amerciamment unless the same juries assizes or inquisitions touch us MOREOVER WE grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses that if any person being a Burgess or free man shall be lawfully

¹⁷⁷ Courts held in the market where those who came with "dusty feet" could obtain immediate justice.

elected to exercise any office in the town and such person (having had due notice of such election) refuses to exercise the office to which he has been elected that then it shall be lawful for the Mayor and such Burgesses who have been Mayors or the greater part of them to impose reasonable amerciaments upon such refusing as to the Mayor and Burgesses or the greater part of them shall seem reasonable And such person refusing to pay such amerciaments to commit to prison within the town and continue in prison until he shall pay such amerciaments to the use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses notwithstanding the said statute of Henry VII. [hereinbefore printed on page 101] or other statute and notwithstanding that such person at the time of his election shall not be a resiant dweller in the town so only that he should be a Burgess or free man of the town AND THAT it shall be lawful for the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses by their officers to put themselves in seizin of the same amerciaments by distraining the goods and chattels of such person to the use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses without impediment AND further that no merchant artificer tavern keeper or brewer or other exercising any art or any pedlar or petty chapman (who is not a Burgess) selling any wares or woollen or linen cloth (a certain linen cloth called housewives cloth only excepted) or other merchandize enter the town or presume to use any house shop or standing within the town for exercising their arts or for sale of their wares (except at the times of fairs and marts) under such pains and penalties as may be lawfully inflicted on such delinquents AND MOREOVER WE grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses special license and authority of acquiring and possessing messuages lands tenements and other hereditaments as well of us as of any others who did not hold of us immediately in chief nor by Knights' service so that the same do not exceed the clear yearly value of fifty pounds the statute for not putting lands or tenements to mortmain or any other statute to the contrary notwithstanding With power to give grant bequeath or alienate such tenements or hereditaments AND FURTHER WE grant that all letters patent charters and confirmations customs and ordinances of our famous progenitors Kings or Queens of England which the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses have reasonably held or exercised by the name of the Mayor and Commonalty of the town or the name of the Mayor Burgesses and Commonalty of the town or by the name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses

Power to chafe
freemen though
not inhab tants
to any office with
in the Towne.
To tyme t. m. yf
shall refuse to
take vpon him
the office where-
to he is chosen.

That no foray-
ner shal sel by
retayle any
wares within
the Towne &c.
but in tyme
of faires.

Licence to
purchase in
mortmaine to
50 li value per
annum.

Confirmations
of all their
ancient mres.

Grant and confirmation of lands tithes free fishing &c.

A Clause of restitution to their former liberties. To enjoye their liberties in case of non user or abuse.

of the town of Northampton shall be ratified and confirmed To hold the same to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton for ever rendering therefore yearly to us the like rents or services which had been paid or answered to us or our ancestors AND WE grant that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses shall be restored to all the liberties franchises and free customs which they previously enjoyed notwithstanding that they may not have used the same Without let or impediment of us or our Justices Sheriffs Coroners or Escheators Without fine in the Hanaper

By writ of Privy Seal
Yonge

This charter is written in Latin on five skins of parchment, 33 inches wide and 25 inches deep.

The first skin is very highly illuminated. Within the initial J is a portrait of the King seated on his throne, crowned; clad in a crimson robe, lined with ermine; and wearing the chain, garter, and George attached to a blue ribbon appearing under the cloak of the order of the garter; in his right hand he bears the sceptre, and in his left the orb. Above the upper line in the centre, are emblazoned the royal arms;—*Quarterly, first and fourth grand quarters, FRANCE MODERN, and ENGLAND quarterly; second grand quarter, SCOTLAND; and third grand quarter IRELAND; within the garter, supported by lion and unicorn.* Round the edge of the skin are the following heraldic designs:—A lion statant gardant or, imperially crowned, the crest of England. On an imperial crown, a lion sejant affronté gu., imperially crowned, holding in the dexter paw a sword, and in the sinister a sceptre, both erect and proper, the crest of Scotland. And the badges:—Rays or, descending from a cloud arg., first used by Edward III. A falcon arg., within a fetterlock closed or, used by Edward IV, who ordered that his son, Richard, Duke of York, should bear the same badge with the fetterlock open. A falcon arg., crowned and holding in the dexter talon a sceptre or, standing on the stock of a tree gold, out of which sprout both red and white roses, used by Anne Boleyn, and also by her daughter Queen Elizabeth. A crowned fleur-de-lys or.

The second, third, and fourth skins are unornamented.

The fifth skin, like the first, is highly illuminated, with eight shields, interwoven with representations of flowers, fruit, birds, butterflies, insects, and reptiles. Four of the shields are identical, and bear the arms of Northampton :—*Gu., on a plain point vert, a tower ar., (not triple towered) supported by two lions rampant guardant or.* The other four shields are also identical :—*Arg., three lions rampant guardant gu., a chief of the second, a mullet sa., for difference, YELVERTON*; above each of these four shields is written :—"Henricus Yelverton Miles Alturnatus D. Regis Generalis Recordator."

Almost the whole of the great seal of England, in brown wax, remains attached to the silver and silver gilt plaited cord.

On the left hand margin of each skin are notes of the contents of the document in English, as here printed.

It is only indorsed :—

"23"

Letters Patent of 15th Charles II.

3RD AUGUST, 1663.

THE corporation this year obtained a new grant from the King. After the letters patent had been received the general assembly ordered that those persons who had entered into a bond for procuring money to defray the charges for the same, which amounted to £170, or thereabouts, as appeared by the bill then read, should have security of the corporation to bear them out therein.

These letters patent are very similar to those of the 16th James I., of which a full abstract is printed on page 125; the following translation is therefore very much condensed. The corporation continued to act under this grant until 1706, in consequence of the grant of the 35th Charles II., proving abortive.

Abbreviated Translation.

Charter of Confirmation to the Mayor and Commonalty of Northampton.

THE KING to all to whom &c Greeting WHEREAS the town of Northampton is an ancient and populous town and has been possessed of divers privileges Wherefore the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses have humbly besought us to confirm the grants of our progenitors with certain additions KNOW ye that our augmentations to the said town have been made out of our great affection for the same AND WE WILL that for keeping the peace and for the good government of the town of our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion we grant and confirm that the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses shall be the present Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of Northampton and the franchises thereof AND THAT Northampton shall be a free town AND THAT the Burgesses shall be one body corporate by the name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton with perpetual succession and in law persons capable to possess lands and franchises goods and chattels And to plead and be impleaded in any courts AND to have a common seal and break and change the same for a new one AND ALSO WE WILL that three of the more honest Burgesses be elected as Mayor and Bailiffs of the town And that there shall be forty eight good and discreet men dwelling in the town who have never been Mayors nor Bailiffs who shall be called "The Company of eight and fforty" who with the Mayor and Bailiffs shall be called the Common Council of the town and shall assist the Mayor AND WE WILL that the Mayor Bailiffs and Company of Eight and forty together with three other Burgesses of the town (who shall have been Mayors) commonly called Aldermen of whom four shall be a quorum with full power and authority to frame such laws as shall appear to them necessary and good for the conduct of the burgesses artificers and inhabitants of the town And for the victualling of the same And that they may impose fines or penalties AND WE NOMINATE John Brayfeild¹⁷⁸ to be the Mayor of the town from the present

¹⁷⁸ John Brayfeild, or Brafield, was elected mayor on the 19th September, 1662, in lieu of William Spencer, who was then put out of office by the regulation of King Charles.

time until the next feast of Saint Michael the Archangel and until another Burgess be appointed provided he so long live AND WE APPOINT James Coles Esquire Edward Collis Jonathan Whiston Thomas Thorneton William Vaughan John Friend Joseph Hensman and John House to be the Aldermen¹⁷⁹ of the town AND WE APPOINT Francis Pickmer and Laurence Tomkins to be the Bailiffs and to continue in office until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel or until two others shall be appointed provided they so long live AND WE WILL that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses who have been Mayors shall as they have been accustomed of old time to do elect such Burgesses as may be necessary to form the Company of Eight and forty who shall continue for their lives unless amoved AND WE GRANT that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses who have been Mayors may call and dissolve the Common Council any statute to the contrary notwithstanding AND WE WILL that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may annually within ten days next after the 1st day of August assemble in the "Guilhada" or some other convenient place in the town and there according to the statute of the 4th Henry VII [hereinbefore printed on page 101] elect one Burgess as Mayor of the town for the ensuing year who before acting shall take his oath of office before the last Mayor or the Recorder AND THAT the Mayor Bailiffs and Company of Eight and forty shall have power in a like manner to elect two out of the eight and forty as Bailiffs who shall also take their oaths of office before acting in the same way And in case the Mayor shall die or from his office be amoved that the Bailiffs the Burgesses who have been Mayors and the Company of Eight and forty shall elect another Burgess in his place And that they may in a similar manner elect Bailiffs in the place of those who shall die or from their office be amoved And that they may also elect Burgesses in the place of any of the company who shall die or be amoved AND WE GRANT that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may elect one learned in the laws called the Recorder

¹⁷⁹ Of these Alderman, Edward Collis was mayor of the town in 1654-5, 1670-1; Jonathan Whiston, or Whiston, in 1657-8, 1674-5. Thomas Thorneton, or Thornton, in 1661-2; William Vaughan in 1663-4; and John Friend, or Frend, in 1665-6, 1669, 1676-7, and 1677-8.

AND WE APPOINT our councillor Edward Earl of Manchester¹⁰⁰ to be the Recorder for life and after his decease his successor shall be elected by the Common Council And that they shall have authority to elect a Chamberlain and such officers and ministers as may seem necessary AND WE GRANT that the Mayor and Recorder the Burgess who was last Mayor and one other Burgess shall be our Justices of the Peace and perform all things pertaining to that office AND THAT the Mayor Recorder and two other Burgesses shall be able to hear and determine all things which to the office of Justice of the Peace belong. AND WE WILL that our Justices of the Peace for the County of Northampton do not intromit or meddle in the town or liberties thereof AND WE CONSTITUTE John Brayfeild Mayor Edward Earl of Manchester Recorder and others to be our Justices of the Peace and that of them the Mayor Recorder or Deputy Recorder shall have power to hear and determine all murders felonies riots oppressions and other matters AND THAT the Mayor shall be our Escheator AND WE GRANT that the Mayor and Bailiffs may hold one court of Record in the Guildhall of actions real or personal on such days as have been accustomed and render judgments and levy fines therein and have return of all writs AND THAT the Mayor shall be Clerk of the Market AND WE GRANT to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses fines and amerciaments of all Burgesses forfeited before the Justices of the County of Northampton or elsewhere AND WE GRANT to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses the goods and chattels of felons or fugitives for the good of the town wherefore we command our Treasurer to procure such writs as may be necessary for levying the same and to pay the same to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses AND WE GRANT to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses the hereditaments known as Chamber Lands together with all wastes purprestures and appurtenances To hold the same to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses rendering therefore yearly to us the rents and services which to us and our progenitors have been rendered AND wishing to provide for the safety of orphans of the town WE GRANT that the Mayor and his brethren who have been Mayors shall have the custody of the orphans of any

¹⁰⁰ Edward Montagu was born in 1602, and succeeded as second Earl of Manchester in 1642, the same year he was appointed Lord Lieutenant, and in 1660 Custos Rotulorum for Northamptonshire. He was "a person of great civility and "very well bred," and "of a debonnaire nature." He died in 1671.

Burgess of the town And that they shall keep the goods and chattels of the same in the common treasury of the town in the same way that is done in the city of London AND as we have been informed that the Mayor has been used to receive recognizances according to the statute of merchants WE GRANT to the Mayor the power to receive recognizances according to the statute of merchants AND WE NOMINATE Henry Lee¹⁴¹ the Town Clerk to be the clerk to write such recognizances and to continue in the office of clerk of the town from the present time to the feast of Saint Michael if he so long live and well demean himself AND WE GRANT that the Mayor and such Burgesses who have been Mayors may within ten days after the 1st August annually elect a Town Clerk AND THAT the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may have seven fairs or marts annually in the town the first to be on the feast of Saint George the Martyr [April 23rd] the second on the feast of Saint Hugh the Bishop [November 17th] the third on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary [January 1st] the fourth on the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary [March 25th] the fifth on the feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary [December 8th] the sixth on the day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary [August 15th] and the seventh on the Feast of Saint James the Apostle [December 27th] each fair to commence on the day preceding and to be continued on the day following each feast AND THAT they may hold a market on the Wednesday Friday and Saturday in every week with tolls and liberties and a court of Piepowder without let or hindrance AND WE GRANT that the Mayor Bailiffs Burgesses and free men of the town shall not be impannelled on any juries whatsoever out of the town AND WE FURTHER GRANT that if any person being a Burgess or free man shall be elected to any office and refuse to serve the Mayor and such Burgesses who have been Mayors may impose reasonable fines and if such person refuse to pay such fines they may commit

¹⁴¹ Henry Lee was appointed Town Clerk in 1662. He was an antiquary, and wrote a history of the town of Northampton, which is now in the Bodleian Library, at Oxford; it is headed "Memorandums of the Antiquities of the Town of Northampton and of severall remarkable things acted in this Kingdom of England" collected by Henry Lee in the eighty sixth year of his age who served y^e Corporacon of Northampton in the office of Town-Clerke fifty and three years till August 1715."

him to prison whether residing in the town or not and also distrain his goods AND FURTHER that no merchant pedlar or chapman shall sell goods within the town except in times of fairs and marts unless he be a Burgess AND WE GRANT to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses license to acquire lands or hereditaments not exceeding the yearly value of fifty pounds AND THAT all letters patent charters and ordinances of our dearest progenitors to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses shall be ratified and confirmed to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses for ever They rendering yearly the rents and services which have been heretofore rendered AND THAT all liberties and privileges formerly enjoyed by the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses shall be restored although they may not have used the same AND WE ORDAIN that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses Recorder and other officers of the town nominated by these or other letters patent shall take the oaths of obedience or of supremacy before such persons as shall be ordained by law for that purpose WITHOUT express mention &c IN TESTIMONY whereof &c WITNESS myself at Westminster the 3rd day of August

By the same King

These letters patent are not with the muniments of the borough. The preceding abridgement has been made from the copy now in the Public Record Office, where it is referred to as:—

Rot : Pat : 15^{to} Car. II. p. 19. n. 3.

Letters Patent of 35th Charles II.

20TH SEPTEMBER, 1683.

IN 1683 the corporation of Northampton desired to have a new charter; and on the 18th July of that year the assembly voted an address to the King under the common seal, and at the same time it was ordered that the charter be surrendered to Sir Roger Norwich, Baronet, to be delivered to the King and that the common seal be attached to the surrender.

The new grant was accordingly obtained, and at the next Assembly held on the 25th September of the same year, it was ordered that money be raised either on mortgage, or by sale of the town lands to pay for the new charter.

Bridges,¹⁸³ writing at the end of the seventeenth century, states that in consequence of the surrender of the last charter of the 15th Charles II. not having been enrolled, these letters patent were, in the opinion of Sir Edw. Northey, the Attorney-General, void. And so the corporation continued to act under the previous grant of 15th Charles II., until the last letters patent were received in 1796.

These letters patent, are here only very shortly abstracted, as they are of great length and very similar to those of 16th James I., of which a full epitome is printed before on page 125. This document commences in the usual way.

Abbreviated Translation.

CHARLES THE SECOND by the grace of God of England
Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c
TO ALL to whom these presents shall come Greeting WHEREAS

¹⁸³ Bridges' *Northamptonshire*, vol. 1, p. 433.

these letters patent are granted by us upon a petition of the Corporation dated the 25th July 1683 NOW WE WILL that the limits of the town shall be the same as those mentioned in the grant of the 16th James I AND WE WILL and grant that the town shall be corporate THAT the Corporation shall be competent in law to have a common seal THAT the Mayor Bailiffs and Forty-eight Burgesses shall form the Common Council THAT the Mayor and Aldermen shall have power to make laws statutes and ordinances for the good government of the town and that they shall have power to inforce the same by fines and punishments* WE APPOINT Thomas Atterbury¹⁸³ as Mayor of the town And we appoint William Else Jonathan Whiston John Willoughby John Bradfeild John Friend John Howes Richard Rands Richard White and Robert White to be the Aldermen of the town And we appoint John Warnes William Pettit Frances Ratdmyt Richard Harris Henry Lee Thomes Serjeant John Clifford Robert Addis Raphdeleur Coldwell Richard Ebraff James Green Robert Ives senior Henry Flexney Charles Lyon Nicholas Knyt Samuel Short Robert Styles John Peake Richard Buckingham Richard Ward and Samuel Clifford as Bailiffs of the town AND WE appoint Thomas Shadwick John Warner Nathaniel Andrews Henry Watts Nathaniel Potter Robert Coles John Pigeon senior Thomas Brafeild John Farr John Twinden John Duncley John Pigeon junior Thomas Harrison Bartholomew Parr Robert Sanders Thomas Clarridge Hatton Atkins Edward Hellier William Weecles Samuel Martin John Rands Richard Pigeon William Burt Henry Osmond John Lane John King John Bayly Richard Harris Richard Holled Thomas Lacep Henry Cooper Edward Frind John Fokser Thomas Bates John Dilley Francis Batten Thomas Scrivener Fraur Booth William Cooke Charles Cook to be the Company of Forty AND WE direct that the Mayor Bailiffs and the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs or the majority of them shall have power to elect the Mayor annually between the 1st of August and the 26th September in the Guildhall or other convenient place in the town AND THAT in case the Mayor shall die or be amoved from his office his successor shall be elected by the Bailiffs and the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of Forty or the majority of them AND WE direct

* Second skin.

¹⁸³ Thomas Atterbury, or Atterburg, was mayor of the town in 1682-3.

that the Mayor shall take his oath of office before the last Mayor and the Recorder of the town AND THAT in case the Bailiffs die or be amoved from their office their successors shall be elected by the Mayor Bailiffs the Burgesses who have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the Company of Forty AND WE will that the town have a discreet and learned man as Recorder AND WE appoint Henry Earl of Peterborough¹⁸⁴ as Recorder of the town for life And after his decease his successor shall be elected by the Common Council of the town AND WE* also will that the town have one Seneschal AND WE appoint Henry Harris one of the Bailiffs as Seneschal to remain in that office so long as he well demean himself AND WE direct that the Seneschal shall take the oath of office before the Mayor or Recorder and any of the Aldermen Bailiffs or Burgesses who choose to be present AND WE will that his successor shall be elected by the Common Council AND WE appoint Henry Lee¹⁸⁵ as Common Clerk who shall take his oath of office in the same manner as the Seneschal and his successor shall be elected by the Common Council AND WE will that the Common Council shall have power to nominate such Chamberlains Officers and Ministers for the good government of the town as they may think fit AND WE will that the Mayor Recorder and Deputy Recorder or any one of them and their successors shall be our Justices of the Peace within the liberties of the town to execute all that pertains to that office AND WE direct that the Justices of the Peace for the County of Northampton shall in no way intromit or interfere AND WE will that the Mayor shall be the Escheator of the town AND THAT a Court of Record shall be held in the Guildhall before the Mayor Recorder Deputy Recorder and the two Bailiffs AND THAT the

* Third skin.

¹⁸⁴ Henry Maundaunt was born in 1621, and succeeded as second Earl of Peterborough in 1644. He was possessed of Drayton, in this county, and was keeper of the King's game in that manor. On the 5th July, 1673, the Earl was appointed Lord Lieutenant for the western division of this county, and was Lord Lieutenant for the whole county from the 20th February, 1678, to the 23rd December, 1688. He was appointed Recorder of Northampton on the 20th July, 1682, of Higham Ferrers in 1683, and of Brackley on the 8th September, 1688. His motto was *Lucem tuam da nobis*. Earl Maudaunt married Penelope, daughter of the Earl of Thomond, by whom he had two daughters. He died on the 19th June, 1697.

¹⁸⁵ For note as to Henry Lee see page 141.

Corporation shall have return of all writs summonses of the Exchequer and other processes AND THAT the Mayor shall be Clerk of the Market AND WE* further grant to the Corporation all fines amerciements or redemptions of Burgesses whether resident or not resident in the town made or forfeited before our Justices of Oyer and Terminer of Assizes of Gaol Delivery or of the Peace or before the Clerk of the Market the Justices in Eyre or the Commissioners of "Les Sewers" in the County of Northampton or before the Mayor Recorder and two Burgesses Justices of the Peace or the Clerk of the Market in the town or the Seneschal and Marshal the Escheator in the town or county of Northampton or before any other Justices Commissioners of us in the county of Northampton And also the goods and chattels of felons and all forfeited recognizances And with power to sue in our name for issues fines amerciements and recognizances forfeited Mandamus to the Lord Treasurer and officers of the Exchequer after the recovery and levying of the fines to deliver them out of the Exchequer to the Mayor And we confirm the Chamberlains' orphans court AND WE appoint that the Mayor and Aldermen shall have custody of orphans and that their goods and chattels shall be kept in the common treasury AND WE appoint the Mayor to take statutes merchant and recognizances AND WE appoint Henry Lee the Town Clerk to be the Clerk of the Statutes AND WE grant† seven fairs yearly on the same days as mentioned in the charter of 16th James I. AND WE also grant a market to be held on the first Thursday in every calendar month for the sale and purchase of cattle except horses mares and colts AND a market every Wednesday Friday and Saturday throughout the year with the right of levying tolls and with a Court of Pie-powder and free customs AND THAT all Burgesses shall be exempt from serving on juries out of the town AND with power to elect any freeman though not resident in the town to any office within the town AND THAT any one refusing to accept any office to which he has been elected shall be fined and in default of payment committed to prison and detained until the fine shall be paid AND WE grant that none but Burgesses and freemen shall exercise any trade

* Fourth skin.

† Fifth skin.

art mystery or calling or keep any shop or stall or sell wares or merchandize or use any art or calling in the town AND THAT no pedlers or "petty chapmen" shall sell any cloth (except "Huswives cloth") or any merchandize (except victuals) by retail except in time of fairs AND THAT the Corporation shall have license in mortmain to purchase to the value of £50 yearly AND WE hereby confirm all ancient liberties lands manors tenements free fishing and other privileges AND THAT* the Recorder shall have power to appoint a deputy to act during his pleasure AND WE further will that the Mayor Aldermen Bailiffs Burgesses Recorder Deputy Recorder Seneschal Common Clerk and all other officers and ministers of the town shall take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy AND WE further reserve power to remove the Mayor Aldermen Recorder or other officer of the town or any of them by letters under our Signet IN TESTIMONY whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent WITNESS myself at Westminster the 20th day of September in the 35th year of our reign

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in Latin on six skins of parchment, $31\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and 25 inches deep. The first of these is adorned with a portrait of the King, a shield bearing the royal arms (Stewart), and other crowned shields, bearing singly England, France, Scotland (without tressure), Ireland, and the double rose badge of England. The other skins are ornamented in a similar manner. All these designs are printed from copper plates.

Two small fragments of the great seal in green wax remain attached to the red and white cord.

On the back is only:—

"24"

There is also a copy of these letters patent in the Public Record Office, where they are referred to as:—

Rot. Pat. 35 Car. II., p. 3. n. 2.

* Sixth skin.

Letters Patent of 1st Anne.

10TH JULY, 1702.

THESE letters patent, which are of the nature of an *inspeximus* charter, simply inspect and confirm the letters patent of the 15th Charles II., without granting any fresh privileges.

Translation.

ANNE by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith &c. TO ALL to whom these our present letters shall come Greeting WE HAVE INSPECTED the inolment of certain letters patent of confirmation bearing date the third day of August in the fifteenth year of the reign of Charles the Second made and granted to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton as appears of record by our Chancellor of the Exchequer in these words The King to all [and so forth, repeating the whole of the letters patent of 15th Charles II., 3rd August, 1663, printed before at page 137.] NOW WE the inolments aforesaid at the request of the said Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton aforesaid include and exemplify by these presents IN TESTIMONY whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent WITNESS myself at Westminster the 10th day of July in the first year of our reign

Trevor Trymes

Examined by us { Will Roges
 and
 Jno Roges

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in Latin on six skins of parchment, 34 inches wide and 32 inches deep.

Each skin is ornamented with designs printed from copper plates. On the first is a portrait of Queen Anne; a shield bearing the royal arms of England (as used by the Stuarts); and other shields bearing singly England, France, Scotland, and Ireland, surmounted by crowns; and a shield bearing a crowned thistle as the badge of Scotland; the whole interwoven with floriated patterns. The other five skins are adorned in a similar manner. Two Inland Revenue stamps, of five shillings each, are impressed on every skin.

The whole of the great seal of England, as used by King William III., after the death of Queen Mary, in yellow wax, attached to white and red platted cord, and placed in a circular tin box, is still extant, and is in fair preservation.

On the back is written:—

“25”

“An Exemplefycacon att the Request
“of the Mayor Bayliffs and Burgeffes
“of the Towne of Northton.”

Exemplification of a Judgement.

12TH FEBRUARY, 1744.

THIS document is a record of a judgement of the Court of King's Bench at Westminster, with respect to certain market rights of the town.

Abbreviated Transcript.

GEORGE THE SECOND BY THE GRACE OF GOD of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the faith &c. To all to whom these presents shall come GREETING We have inspected a certain Record had before us in these words PLEASE before our Lord the King at Westminster of the Term of the Holy Trinity in the 17th and 18th George the Second 1744 Roll 1002 Northamptonshire to wit The Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of Northampton by their attorney against Thomas Ward the younger

by his attorney Be it remembered that on Friday next after the morrow of the Holy Trinity in the same Term The Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses brought a Bill against the said Thomas Ward then in the custody of the Marshal of the Marshalsea for that he on the 5th day of May 1743 had entered the close of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses called the Butcher's Row within the parish of All Saints in the town of Northampton and erected a stall in the same close and permitted the same to remain there for ten days to the great damage of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses amounting as they say to the sum of £20 Whereupon the said Thomas Ward pleads not guilty And as to the space of twenty hours part of the said space of ten days the said Thomas Ward says that the said close called Butcher's Row formed part of the Market Hill where a public Market had been held on the Saturday in every week for the sale of raw flesh and other merchandise And that there had been an ancient custom whereby every butcher being a burgess or freeman had been accustomed to erect and use stalls in the said close on every market day freely And the said Thomas Ward says he is a burgess freeman and butcher of the town Therefore he had on the said 5th day of May that being a Saturday and market day entered the said close and erected a stall there for the space of twenty hours for the sale of meat The issue was tried before Sir Lawrence Carter Knight and Edward Denison Esquire at the Assizes held in and for the County of Northampton on the third day of July 1743 when the Jury John Packhurst Esquire Samuel Harding Esquire John Blencowe Esquire John Orme Esquire Edward Maunsell Esquire John Tryon Esquire Charles Bletsoe Esquire William Ash Esquire Samuel Goodman Gentleman Thomas Banks Gentleman Richard Marryott Gentleman and William Foster Gentleman found that the said Thomas Ward was guilty of trespass and assessed damages to the amount of one shilling and costs to the amount of £2. 13s. 4d. due to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses The parties not being satisfied the cause was removed to Westminster where after several adjournments it was held by the Court that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses were not barred from their action and so they were held to be entitled to recover the several sums of one shilling for damages £2. 13s. 4d. for costs and £122. 5s. 8d. for further costs amounting altogether to £125.

This document is written in English on four skins of parchment, 36 inches wide and 32 inches deep. On the first skin is a portrait of the King, the royal arms, &c., and the other skins are also ornamented with designs printed from copper plates.

Each skin bears an Inland Revenue stamp of the value of 10s.

Fragments of the seal of the Court of King's Bench in a tin box are attached.

It is indorsed:—

"The Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses
"of the Corporation of Northampton
" agst
" Thomas Ward."

"27"

Letters Patent of 36th George III.

2ND APRIL, 1796.

IN 1795 the letters patent of the 1st Queen Anne were surrendered to the King. Mr. Thomas Hall being mayor and Messrs George Osborn and Samuel Holt bailiffs at the time.

In May, the same year, the mayor and corporation drew up a petition to the King, praying him to regrant to the burgesses all their ancient grants and privileges. But they did not think it necessary to convene a general meeting of the town for this purpose. Mr. Martin Lucas, however, thought otherwise, opposed the petition, and called a general meeting in the County Hall, which caused great confusion.

Committees were formed, a counter petition praying the King not to grant the new charter without the knowledge of the petitioners, was signed by about 500 persons, and presented by the Honble. Edward Bouverie.

The draft of the proposed new grant was accordingly sent to the town committee for their approval; and in November these gentlemen came to the following resolution:—

"That this committee do now decline all further opposition to the new charter; as, having been defeated in their main pursuit of obtaining a participation in the construction of it, they have no hopes of succeeding better by combating particular clauses though there might be some which to them may appear objectionable."

In the meantime the court of aldermen resolved to nominate eight persons to fill up the vacancies in the forty eight; and "to be inserted in the new charter now soliciting"; and it was added that all officers should continue in their respective offices.

The new letters patent were accordingly prepared, and early in the year 1796, Mr. Hall, accompanied by Mr. John Markham, went to London, and on the 6th April they returned with the new grant.

On the arrival of the carriage with the Mayor, Lord Compton, the Honble. Spencer Percival, Mr. Markham, and the precious document, the horses were taken out, and the carriage drawn through the principal streets.

At the Guildhall the mayor addressed the burgesses in these words:—

"Gentlemen,—It is with infinite satisfaction I have the honour to lay before you your charter of incorporation, whereby his Majesty has been pleased to confirm your ancient rights and privileges. The feeble opposition made against your obtaining this royal grant, I doubt not, has satisfied every candid mind it originated in error, and without foundation. You requested only your rights to be established on a solid and permanent basis, and I am confident I speak the language of you all when I say, the powers now vested in you and myself as a body, will never be exercised but for the true and best interests of the town in general."

After this address, the mayor and the corporation, with Lord Compton, Mr. Perceval, and the principal inhabitants dined together at the Peacock Hotel.

The cost of obtaining this new grant was enormous, and we find that during the years 1795-6 the corporation borrowed £1600 of various persons towards these expenses. The mayor's accounts for these years show the following disbursements that come under that head:—

		£.	s.	d.
12 Nov.	Mr. Jeyes, Town Clerk, on account of the Charter	40	0	0
8 Jan.	Mr. Jeyes, on further account of the Charter...	40	0	0
16 Mar.	Mr. Jeyes, on further account of the Charter...	100	0	0
	At the Council Office, ditto ...	60	5	6
	Patent Office, ditto ...	160	17	0
	Secretary of State's Office, ditto ...	343	17	6
	Signet Office, ditto ...	390	13	7
	Privy Seal Office, ditto ...	392	13	6
	Lord Chancellor's Office, ditto ...	255	3	8
	My own and Mr. Markham's Expenses to London for the Charter	22	3	0
2 Sept.	Mr. Jeyes, on further account of the Charter ...	200	0	0
	Printing a Bill ditto ...	14	19	2

The rejoicings over the new charter were also various and costly, as appears from the following particulars from the same accounts :—

		£.	s.	d.
6 April	Mr. Francis Osborn, Expenses of the night the Charter arrived	53	4	11
	Mr. George Osborn for Ribbons upon the arrival of the Charter	3	13	10
	For Beer ditto	12	7	8
	Mr. Francis Osborn, Expenses of Ladys Assembly	18	18	6
	Musick at Ditto	1	16	0
	Mr. Dilkin for a Transparency	20	5	0
	Mr. Bemington for Lighting it	40	0	0
	Expenses of the Constables for attending	1	2	6
	Mr. Samul Holt, for Scaffolding for the Transparency	6	3	8
16 May	Mr. Richard Mills, for a Dinner	53	9	0
	Boyes, for Oranges and Lemons	1	15	0
	John Wickens, for Nuts and Oranges	0	13	0
	George Osborn, for Sugar	1	5	4
	Mr. James Miller, for Candles	1	0	6
	Mr. M. Francis, for Biskets	0	6	0
	Sergeants' Expenses at their Dinners	0	15	0
	Two Cork Screws	0	2	0

The assembly in 1796, voted a hundred guineas to Mr. Spencer Perceval, deputy recorder, for his trouble and pains in connection with the new charter, together with five guineas to his clerk. Fifty guineas were voted, for a like cause, to Mr. John Markham.

It was also ordered on July 4th of that year, "that the Expenses of the Treat at the Peacock Inn on the Evening the Charter arrived here and was received by the Corporation as also the Mayor's Feast, the Ball given to the Ladys and Gentlemen, and the Expenses of the Transparency be paid by Mr. Mayor and charged to the credit of his account in the Corporation."

These letters patent being the last ever granted to the borough of Northampton, are here printed in full from the original. The side notes are not in the original, but are here printed for convenience of reference.

Letters Patent of 36th George III.

2ND APRIL, 1796.

Preamble.

GEORGE THE THIRD BY THE GRACE OF GOD of Great Britain France and Ireland King defender of the faith and so forth TO ALL TO WHOM these our Present Letters shall come Greeting WHEREAS the Town of Northampton in our County of Northampton is a Town very ancient and populous and from ancient times hath been a Town incorporated and the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses of the Town aforesaid and the Inhabitants of the same and their Predecessors have had and held divers Liberties franchises Privileges and Immunities from the Donations and Concessions of divers our Progenitors and Ancestors late Kings and Queens of England AND WHEREAS it has been humbly besought of us that wee would vouchsafe to ratify approve and confirm all and singular the aforesaid Grants Charters and Letters Patent of all or any our Progenitors and Ancestors to the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Predecessors by any Name or Names of Incorporation made and granted and whether such Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses are now

a Corporation or not with Addition Augmentation Alteration and Explanation of such Liberties Grants Privileges Immunities and franchises according as to us should seem expedient for the public Good and Common Utility of the same Town KNOW YE that wee most earnestly desiring the Benefit Advantage Prosperity Augmentation and Amendment of the Town aforesaid and also the good State and Government of the same and being willing that from henceforth for ever one certain and undoubted Manner and form may be continually had in the same Town and Place aforesaid for the keeping of Peace and the good Rule and Government of the People there and that our Peace and other Acts of Justice there may be without further delay observed of our special Grace and our certain Knowledge and mere motion HAVE willed ordained appointed granted ratified confirmed and declared and by these Presents for ourselves our Heirs and Successors DO will ordain appoint grant ratify confirm and declare that the aforesaid Town of Northampton and the Circuit Precincts Limits Bounds Compass Liberties franchises and Jurisdictions of the same henceforth for ever do extend stretch forth and reach and may and can be able and of force to extend stretch forth and spread themselves in and by such the same and the like Compass Bounds and Limits as heretofore they have been accustomed and ought to extend and reach WE have also willed ordained appointed granted ratified confirmed and declared and by these Presents of our special Grace and of our certain Knowledge and mere motion for ourselves our Heirs and Successors DO will ordain appoint grant ratify confirm and declare that the said Town of Northampton henceforth be and shall be a free Town of itself and that the Burgesses of the said Town and their Successors from henceforth and for ever be and shall be by force of these Presents one Body Corporate and Politic in Deed fact and Name by the Name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton and them by the Name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton into one Body Corporate and Politic in Deed fact and Name really and to the full for us our Heirs and Successors we do erect make ordain and constitute confirm and declare by these Presents and that by the same Name they may have a perpetual Succession and that they by the Name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton be

Boundaries
of the Town.

Incorporation
by the name of
the Mayor
Bailiffs and
Burgesses.

Capacity to
Purchase.

May sue and
be sued.

Common Seal

The Mayor.

Bailiffs.

and shall be always in times to come Persons able and in Law capable to have purchase receive and possess Lands Tenements Liberties Privileges Jurisdictions franchises and Hereditaments of what kind nature or species soever they shall be to them and their Successors in fee for ever and also Goods and Chattels and other things whatsoever of what kind nature or species soever they shall be AND ALSO to Give Grant Demise and Assign Lands Tenements and Hereditaments Goods and Chattels and to do and execute all and singular other Deeds and Things by the name aforesaid AND THAT by the same Name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton they may be empowered and enabled to plead and be impleaded to answer and be answered to defend and be defended in whatsoever Courts Pleadings and Places and before whatsoever our Judges and Justices and other persons and Officers of us, and our Heirs and Successors in all Suits Plaints Pleas Causes Matters and Demands whatsoever of what Kind Nature or Species soever they be in the same manner and form as others our liege People of this our Kingdom of England being Persons able and in Law capable can and may plead and be impleaded answer and be answered defend and be defended and to have purchase receive possess give grant and demise AND THAT the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors shall and may have for ever a Common Seal which shall serve for the doing of their and their Successors Matters Business and Affairs whatsoever and that it shall and may be lawful for the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors from time to time at their Pleasure to break such Seal and change or make a new One according as to them shall seem requisite and fit AND further wee will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do Grant and ordain appoint ratify confirm and declare that from henceforth for ever there be and shall be within the Town aforesaid one of the most honest and discreet Burgesses of the Town aforesaid in form hereinafter in these Presents mentioned to be nominated and chosen who shall be and shall be called the Mayor of the Town aforesaid AND *THAT likewise there be and shall be within the same Town two of the most honest and discreet

*Second skin.

Burgeises of the Town aforesaid in Form beneath in these Presents mentioned to be chosen who shall be and shall be called the Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid AND ALSO THAT ^{48 Burgesses.} henceforth there be and shall be within the Town aforesaid from time to time forty and eight honest and discreet Men dwelling and abiding within the same Town and which never have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town who shall be called the Company of Eight and forty. AND WEE will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant that ^{Common Council to be assenting to the Mayor.} the Mayor and two Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for the time being and such other Burgesses of the same Town who heretofore have been in Law or in ffact Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town and have exercised such Offices respectively during so long time as they were respectively elected thereunto whether duly elected thereunto or not and also such other Burgesses of the same Town as hereafter from time to time shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town together with the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and Forty shall be and shall be called the Common Council of the Town aforesaid and shall be from time to time assistant and aiding to the Mayor of the said Town for the time being in all causes and matters touching and concerning the Town aforesaid AND FURTHER WEE will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant ratify confirm and declare that the Mayor and Bailiffs of the aforesaid Town of Northampton and their Successors and such Burgesses of the same Town which heretofore have been or have exercised the Offices of Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town in manner aforesaid or hereafter from time to time shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town together with the aforesaid other Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty and their Successors for the time being or the major part of the same of which major part wee will the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the time being and three other Burgesses of the same Town which heretofore have been or have exercised the Office of Mayors of the same Town in Manner aforesaid or hereafter shall have been Mayors of the same Town commonly called Aldermen of the same Town shall be four have and shall have full Power and Authority to constitute ordain and make from time to time such reasonable Laws Statutes and Ordinances ^{Power to make By-laws.}

First Mayor.

Aldermen.

which to them according to their sound Discretion shall seem to be good wholesome profitable honest and necessary for the good Rule and Government of the Burgeses and other Inhabitants of the Town aforesaid for the time being and for a Declaration in what manner and order the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and Inhabitants of the Town aforesaid for the time being shall demean and use themselves in their Offices within the Town aforesaid and the Limits of the same for the further good and public Service Government and Bettering of the Town aforesaid and victualling of the same and for levying of Moneys to and for the necessary Uses of the same Town and also for the better Preservation guiding disposing letting and setting of Lands Tenements Possessions Rents Revenues and Hereditaments to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the aforesaid Town of Northampton and their Successors heretofore given granted assigned or confirmed or hereafter to be given granted assigned or confirmed or as they or their Predecessors by whatsoever Name or Names or by whatsoever Title of Incorporation known or incorporated or whether they were incorporated or not have held and enjoyed and for Accounts Matters and other Causes whatsoever touching or any ways concerning the Town aforesaid or the State Right and Interest of the same Town yet so as such Laws Statutes and Ordinances be not repugnant or contrary to the Laws Statutes Customs or Rights of our Kingdom of England AND for the better Execution of our Grants in this Behalf we have assigned constituted appointed nominated and made and by these Presents do for us our Heirs and Successors assign constitute nominate appoint and make our beloved Thomas Hall now Mayor or exercising the Office of Mayor of the Town aforesaid to be the first and new Mayor of the same Town willing that the same Thomas Hall shall be and continue in the Office of Mayor of the said Town from the making of these Presents until the Day of the feast of St. Michael the Archangel next to come and from the same until another Burgess of the aforesaid Town shall be preferred and sworn to that Office according to the Ordinance and Constitutions hereunder in these Presents expressed and declared if the said Thomas Hall¹⁵⁶ shall so long live AND FURTHER

¹⁵⁶ Thomas Hall was Mayor of the Town in 1789-90, 1794-5, 1795-6, and again in 1808-9.

WE have nominated assigned appointed and confirmed and by these presents do for us our Heirs and Successors nominate assign appoint and confirm our beloved Thomas Breton William Gibson William King John Newcome Robert Trasler William Tompson Clark Hillyard William Marshall James Sutton Richard Mills Samuel Treslove Hill Gudgeon Richard Meacock James Miller William Francis and Jeremiah Briggs now called Aldermen of the said Town to be Aldermen of the Town aforesaid for and during their respective natural Lives unless in the mean Time for some just and reasonable Cause they or any of them be in due Manner removed from their Office and Offices Moreover we have assigned nominated constituted and made and confirmed and by these Presents do for us our Heirs and Successors assign nominate constitute make and confirm our beloved George Osborn and Samuel Holt now Bailiffs or exercising the Office of Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid to be the first and new Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid to be continued in Office until the aforesaid feast Day of St. Michael the Archangel next coming and from the same feast until two other Burgesses of the Town aforesaid shall be preferred and sworn to the Office* of Bailiffs of the same Town according to the Orders and Constitutions in these Presents expressed and declared if the same George Osborn and Samuel Holt shall so long live AND further we have nominated assigned and confirmed and by these Presents do for us our Heirs and Successors nominate assign and confirm our beloved William Pain Martin Lucas Henry Duke Edward Cox Charles Smith John Hollis Thomas Dickinson Thomas Scriven James Brown Francis Hayes Thomas Smith John Segary Joseph Edge Thomas Hodgkinson John Matthews Hopkins John Chambers William Ager Benjamin Goodman James Cliff Edward Wood John Harris Timothy Chapman and Francis Shaw who have heretofore been Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid or have exercised the Office of Bailiff of the Town aforesaid to exercise the Duties and have the Privileges by these Presents conferred upon such Burgesses as have been Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for and during their respective natural Lives unless in the mean Time for some just and reasonable Cause they or any of they be in due Manner removed from their Office or Offices AND further we have

First two
Bailiffs.

Bailiffs.

The 48
Burgesses.

* Third skin

nominated assigned and confirmed and by these Presents do for us our Heirs and Successors nominate assign and confirm our beloved William ffox John George Hugh Sharp James Linnell Richard Alliston Joshua Stevenson John Gibson Aaron Thompson Whitmill Paine William Tarry James Boon Robert Roddis francis Osborn William Birdsall Arthur Brownsgrave James Jones John Bull Collins Robert Trasler the Younger William Pain the Younger John ffox William Dunkley John Scotfield George ffish William Sutton John Harris Thomas Westley William Odell John Hall Thomas Taylor Thomas Catterns Thomas Hillyard Barnard Levi Samuel Brown Joseph Cross John Johnson John Wright Thomas Armfield Richard Scriven John Barrett William Marshall the Younger William Balaam Charles Balaam John Dunkley Joseph Ekins Lewis Charles freeman James Dunkley William Trasler and Thomas Treslove to be the new and present Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty of the same Town for and during their respective natural Lives unless in the mean Time for some just or reasonable Cause they or any of them be in due Manner removed from their Office or Offices AND further we will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Succesors that the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the Time being and such Burgesses of the same Town who have been heretofore Mayors or have heretofore exercised the office of Mayors of the Town aforesaid in Manner aforesaid or who hereafter shall have been Mayors of the same Town shall from Time to Time according to the ancient Customs of the same Town used as often as there shall be Occasion assign nominate and elect constitute and make so many and such Burgesses as to them shall seem necessary and convenient to be the forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty of the same Town in the Room or Stead of those who may die or may be removed from their Office or Offices in order to complete and keep up the Number of forty eight Burgesses of the same Town which said forty eight Burgesses so assigned nominated elected constituted and made shall be and shall be called the Company of Eight and forty of the same Town during their natural Lives unless in the mean Time for some reasonable Cause according to the ancient Usage of the Corporation they

Election of
48 in case of
death.

or any of them shall be removed from that Office or Place a Corporal Oath to execute the Office in all Things touching the same being first taken AND we further will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the Time being and such Burgeses of the same Town who have been heretofore Mayors or have heretofore exercised the Office of Mayor of the said Town as aforesaid or hereafter from time to time shall have been Mayors of the same Town or the major Part of the same from time to time may have and shall have Authority and Power for any reasonable Cause or Causes to displace and remove from their Office or Place of Common Council any of the said forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty and also such Burgesses of the same Town who heretofore have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the said Town or have exercised the Office of Mayor or Bailiffs of the same Town in Manner aforesaid or who hereafter shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town and thereby or by virtue of these presents Members of the Common Council aforesaid any use prescription or custom to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding And further wee will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do Grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for the time being and such Burgesses of the same Town who heretofore have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town or have exercised the Office of Mayor or Bailiff of the said Town in Manner aforesaid or who hereafter from time to time shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same town together with the aforesaid florty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty and their Successors from time to time for ever hereafter may have, and shall have Power and Authority yearly within ten Days next following the first day of August in every Year to assemble themselves or the major part of them in the Guildhall of the Town aforesaid or in other convenient Place within the Town aforesaid according to their Discretion to be limited and assigned and there to Continue until they or the major part of them then and there assembled shall have elected and nominated One of the Burgesses of the Town

Removal of
Members.

Election of
Mayor.

Mayor's Oath.

Election of
Bailiffs.

aforesaid to be Mayor for the Year who shall be Mayor of the Town aforesaid for one whole Year from Michaelmas THEN* next following AND that after he shall be so nominated and elected as aforesaid before he be admitted to execute that Office he shall take a Corporal Oath upon the Holy Gospel of God Yearly in the Solemnity of the said feast of St. Michael the Archangel before the last Mayor his Predecessor or the Recorder or the Deputy Recorder of the town aforesaid which for the time being shall be according to the ancient Custom of the same Town to execute that Office rightfully well and faithfully in all things touching the same and that after such Oath so taken he may take upon him ought and is empowered to execute the Office of Mayor of the Town aforesaid until the Day of the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel then next following and so long after until another of the aforesaid Burgesses of the Town aforesaid shall be in like due Manner and Form elected preferred and sworn for the Mayor of the Town aforesaid AND moreover wee will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do Grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors That the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for the time being and such Burgesses of the same Town who heretofore have been or have exercised the Office of Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town in manner aforesaid or hereafter shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town for the time being and the aforesaid forty and eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty and their Successors from time to time and at all times hereafter may have and shall have Power and Authority yearly within ten Days next after the aforesaid first day of August in every Year to assemble themselves or the major Part of them in the Guildhall of the town aforesaid or in any other convenient place within the Town aforesaid at their Discretion to be limited and assigned and there to continue until they so as aforesaid assembled shall have nominated and elected two of the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses commonly called the Company of Eight and forty of the town aforesaid to be Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for the Year following in form aforesaid to be elected and nominated and that they be there empowered to elect and nominate two of the aforesaid

* Fourth skin.

Forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty who from thenceforth shall be Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for one whole Year next following the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel then next Ensuing And that they after they shall be so as aforesaid elected and nominated for Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid before they be admitted to execute that Office shall yearly in the Solemnity of the said feast of Saint Michael the Archangel take their Corporal Oaths upon the Holy Gospel of God before the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the time being or the Recorder or Deputy Recorder of the Town aforesaid for the time being according to the ancient Custom of the same Town rightly truly and faithfully to execute that Office in all things touching the same and that after such Oaths so taken they may take upon them and are fully empowered to execute the Office of Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel then next following and so long after until two other of the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty shall in due manner and Form be elected preferred and sworn for Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid AND FURTHER we will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that if it shall happen the Mayor of the Town aforesaid at any Time hereafter within one Year after he shall be preferred and sworn to the Office of Mayor of the Town aforesaid in Manner as aforesaid shall die or be removed from his Office that then and so often it shall be lawful for the Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid and such Burgesses of the same Town which heretofore have been in Manner aforesaid Mayors or Bailiffs of the same or have exercised the Office of Mayor or Bailiffs of the same Town in Manner aforesaid and also such Burgesses who hereafter from time to time shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same and the forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty which for the time being shall be or the major Part of the same with a convenient time after the Death or Removal of him the Mayor to assemble themselves or the major Part of them in the Guildhall of the Town aforesaid or in any other convenient Place within the Town aforesaid according to the ancient custom in the same Town used and there to continue till they or the major part of them then and there assembled

Bailiff's Oath.

Election of
Mayor in Case
of Death.

Mayor's Oath.

Election of
Bailiffs.

aforesaid to be Mayor for the Year who shall be Mayor of the Town aforesaid for one whole Year from Michaelmas THEN* next following AND that after he shall be so nominated and elected as aforesaid before he be admitted to execute that Office he shall take a Corporal Oath upon the Holy Gospel of God Yearly in the Solemnity of the said feast of St. Michael the Archangel before the last Mayor his Predecessor or the Recorder or the Deputy Recorder of the town aforesaid which for the time being shall be according to the ancient Custom of the same Town to execute that Office rightfully well and faithfully in all things touching the same and that after such Oath so taken he may take upon him ought and is empowered to execute the Office of Mayor of the Town aforesaid until the Day of the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel then next following and so long after until another of the aforesaid Burgesses of the Town aforesaid shall be in like due Manner and Form elected preferred and sworn for the Mayor of the Town aforesaid AND moreover wee will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do Grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors That the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for the time being and such Burgesses of the same Town who heretofore have been or have exercised the Office of Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town in manner aforesaid or hereafter shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town for the time being and the aforesaid forty and eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty and their Successors from time to time and at all times hereafter may have and shall have Power and Authority yearly within ten Days next after the aforesaid first day of August in every Year to assemble themselves or the major Part of them in the Guildhall of the town aforesaid or in any other convenient place within the Town aforesaid at their Discretion to be limited and assigned and there to continue until they so as aforesaid assembled shall have nominated and elected two of the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses commonly called the Company of Eight and forty of the town aforesaid to be Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for the Year following in form aforesaid to be elected and nominated and that they be there empowered to elect and nominate two of the aforesaid

* Fourth skin.

Forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty who from thenceforth shall be Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for one whole Year next following the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel then next Ensuing And that they after they shall be so as aforesaid elected and nominated for Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid before they be admitted to execute that Office shall yearly in the Solemnity of the said feast of Saint Michael the Archangel take their Corporal Oaths upon the Holy Gospel of God before the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the time being or the Recorder or Deputy Recorder of the Town aforesaid for the time being according to the ancient Custom of the same Town rightly truly and faithfully to execute that Office in all things touching the same and that after such Oaths so taken they may take upon them and are fully empowered to execute the Office of Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel then next following and so long after until two other of the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty shall in due manner and Form be elected preferred and sworn for Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid AND FURTHER we will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that if it shall happen the Mayor of the Town aforesaid at any Time hereafter within one Year after he shall be preferred and sworn to the Office of Mayor of the Town aforesaid in Manner as aforesaid shall die or be removed from his Office that then and so often it shall be lawful for the Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid and such Burgesses of the same Town which heretofore have been in Manner aforesaid Mayors or Bailiffs of the same or have exercised the Office of Mayor or Bailiffs of the same Town in Manner aforesaid and also such Burgesses who hereafter from time to time shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same and the forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty which for the time being shall be or the major Part of the same with a convenient time after the Death or Removal of him the Mayor to assemble themselves or the major Part of them in the Guildhall of the Town aforesaid or in any other convenient Place within the Town aforesaid according to the ancient custom in the same Town used and there to continue till they or the major part of them then and there assembled

Bailiff's Oath.

Election of
Mayor in Case
of Death.

Election of
Bailiffs in Case
of Death.

shall have elected nominated and preferred one other honest and fit Man of the aforesaid Burgesses of the Town aforesaid in the Room of him so dead or put out of his Office and that he so elected and preferred to the Office of Mayor having first taken a Corporal Oath according to the ancient Custom of the same town may have and exercise that Office during the residue of the same Year and until another of the aforesaid Burgesses shall be elected and sworn to that Office and so from Time to as often as the case shall happen AND if it shall happen the Bailiffs of the town aforesaid which for the time being shall be or either of them shall die or be removed from his or their Office of Bailiffs of the TOWN* aforesaid that then and so often it shall and may be lawful for the Mayor and the remaining Bailiff of the Town aforesaid and the Burgesses which heretofore have been or have exercised the Office of Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town as aforesaid or hereafter shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the same Town and the forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty which for the time being shall be or the major Part of the same for the time being within convenient time and according to the ancient Custom in the same Town used after the aforesaid Bailiff or Bailiffs shall so die or be removed from their Office aforesaid to assemble in the Guildhall in the Town aforesaid or in any other convenient place within the Town aforesaid and that thereupon it shall and may be lawful for them or the major part of them so assembled to elect nominate and prefer One or two of the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses of the Town aforesaid called the Company of Eight and forty as the Case shall require into the Place or Places of him or them the Bailiff or Bailiffs so dead or from their Office removed And that he and they so as aforesaid elected and preferred may have and exercise that Office or those Offices during the Remainder of the same Year and until another or others of the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses of the Town aforesaid shall be elected and sworn to that Office of Bailiff or Bailiffs of the same Town a Corporal Oath according to the Ancient Custom in the same Town used being first to be taken and so as often as the Case shall so fall out AND FURTHER we will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do Grant and Confirm

Recorder.

* Fifth skin.

to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that they and their Successors shall for evermore have one honest and discreet Man learned in the Laws of our Kingdom of England in Form hereinafter expressed to be chosen and nominated who shall be and shall be called the Recorder of the Town aforesaid who shall have power to appoint from Time to Time as to him shall seem necessary and convenient one honest and discreet Man learned in the Laws of our Kingdom of England to be his Deputy and him to remove as occasion may require And we have made assigned nominated constituted and appointed and confirmed and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors DO make assign nominate constitute and appoint and confirm our well beloved and Right Trusty SPENCER EARL OF NORTHAMPTON¹⁸⁷ now Recorder or exercising the Office of Recorder of the said Town to be the first and new Recorder of the Town aforesaid AND WE HAVE made assigned nominated constituted and appointed and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors DO make assign nominate constitute and appoint our beloved SPENCER PERCEVAL¹⁸⁸ Esquire Barrister at Law to be the first and new Deputy Recorder of the said Town Subject nevertheless to Removal at the Discretion of the said Spencer Earl of Northampton or his Successor or Successors Recorder or Recorders of the Town aforesaid And that after the Death or Removal of the aforesaid Spencer Earl of Northampton from the same Office of Recorder the Mayor and Bailiffs and the major Part of the Burgesses which heretofore have been or have exercised the Office of Mayor or Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid in Manner aforesaid or hereafter shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid and the aforesaid forty eight Burgesses called the Company of Eight and forty of the Town aforesaid

Deputy
Recorder.

First Recorder.

First Deputy
Recorder.Election of
Recorder.

¹⁸⁷ Spencer Compton was born 5th August, 1738, and succeeded as eighth Earl of Northampton, 18th October, 1763. He was appointed Recorder of Northampton, 1st November, 1763, and Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of Northamptonshire, 19th July, 1771. He died the 7th April, 1796.

¹⁸⁸ Spencer Perceval, the son of John, Earl of Egmont, and Catherine Compton sister of the Earl of Northampton, was born 1st November, 1762, educated at Harrow and Trinity College, and called to the Bar. He was elected one of the members for the borough of Northampton in 1797; became successively Solicitor General, Attorney General, and Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Prime Minister. He was shot on the 11th May, 1812, as he was entering the House of Commons, and was buried at Charlton, in Kent.

Election of
Chamberlain
and other
Officers.

for the time being or the major part of them be empowered and in convenient time may elect nominate and prefer from time to time as often as they shall think fit and necessary one honest and discreet Man learned in the Laws of England for the Recorder of the Town aforesaid and that he which after the Death or Removal of the said Spencer Earl of Northampton shall be elected nominated and preferred as aforesaid to the Office of Recorder of the Town aforesaid may and is enabled to have exercise and enjoy that Office of Recorder of the Town aforesaid until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next following the Nomination and Election aforesaid a Corporal Oath for faithfully discharging the Office aforesaid being first to be taken AND FURTHER we will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the Time being and such Burgesses of the Town aforesaid who have heretofore been Mayors or who have heretofore exercised the Office of Mayor of the same Town or who shall hereafter have been Mayors of the same Town or the major of them shall and may have Power Ability License and Authority from time to time for ever as often as they shall think fit and necessary for the public Good of the Town and Corporation aforesaid to elect and nominate so many and such Chamberlains and other Officers and Ministers for the Good Service and Common Benefit of the Town aforesaid as afore time they have been lawfully accustomed to elect and nominate or hereafter shall think fit and necessary to elect and nominate which Officers and Ministers so as aforesaid elected and nominated or to be elected and nominated shall severally do and execute their Offices unto which they shall be elected and NOMINATED* according to the Exigent of Law and as heretofore they have been lawtully accustomed to do and execute MOREOVER we have Granted and for us our Heirs and Successors DO by these Presents grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town aforesaid and their Successors that the Mayor and the Recorder and the Deputy Recorder of the Town aforesaid and their Successors which from time to time shall be during the time that they shall happen to be

First Mayor
Recorder, Deputy
Recorder, late Mayor, and
three Aldermen
to be Justices
of the Peace.

* Sixth skin.

in those Offices and one Burgess of the same Town for the time being who last was Mayor of the Town aforesaid and three other of the more honest circumspect and skilful Burgesses of the Town aforesaid who heretofore have been or have exercised the Office of Mayors of the Town aforesaid or hereafter shall have been Mayors of the same Town and who shall be elected and chosen by the said Mayor Bailiffs and such Burgesses as afore time have been or have exercised the Office of Mayors or Bailiffs in Manner aforesaid or hereafter shall have been Mayors or Bailiffs and the forty eight Burgesses commonly called the Company of Eight and fforty or the major Part of them from Year to Year or from time to time according as need shall be shall be our Justices and every of them shall be our Justice and of our Heirs and Successors as well for the Keeping of Peace in the same Town and the Liberties and Precincts of the same as for the execution of the Statutes about Vagabonds Artificers Labourers Weights and Measures and for the restraining and punishing Offences against the same within the same Town and Liberties and Precincts of the same and also to do and execute all and singular other the Matters and Things which belong and appertain to the Office of Justice of Peace and that the same Mayor the Recorder the Deputy Recorder the Burgess who last was Mayor and three Burgesses in form aforesaid to be nominated and elected or any three of them of which Wee will that the Mayor and the Recorder or the Deputy Recorder for the time being be two may have and shall have for evermore full Power and Authority to enquire hear and determine within the aforesaid Town Liberties and Precincts of the same as well in the Presence of us our Heirs and Successors as in the Absence of us our Heirs and Successors of and concerning all and all manner of Murders ffelonies Misprisions Riots Routs Oppressions Extortions florestalling Regrating Offences Trespasses Things Matters and Articles and all other Things whatsoever within the Town aforesaid Liberties and Precincts of the same from time to time arising and happening which to the Office of a Justice of Peace any ways belong or are incumbent or which hereafter shall happen or may belong and be incumbent or which by any means ought or may be enquired of heard and determined before Justices of the Peace together with the Correction and Punishment thereof and generally to do and execute

Country
Justices not to
intermeddle.

Bailiffs to execute
Writs, &c.

Justices to hear
and determine
Offences and
punish
Offenders.

all other Things within the Town aforesaid and the Liberties and Precincts of the same as fully wholly and in as ample Manner and Form as any Justice or Justices of the Peace of us our Heirs and Successors in our County of Northampton or elsewhere within our Kingdom of England before time have had or exercised or hereafter can and may have and exercise by Virtue of any Commission Act of Parliament Statute Law or Custom or by any other lawful Means whatsoever and that in as large manner and form as if the same had been specially and by special Words expressed contained and mentioned in these our Letters Patent and that without any special Commission or Commissions Mandate or Warrant from us our Heirs or Successors hereafter to be had obtained or procured in that behalf WE will also and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do Grant and Command that our Justices of Peace and of our Heirs and Successors in the County of Northampton aforesaid or any of them do not any ways hereafter intermeddle or concern themselves or himself with the Town aforesaid or the Liberties of the same or any of them or have or exercise any Jurisdiction of or about any Causes Things or Matters whatsoever which by Virtue of these our Letters Patent do belong or in any wise appertain to the Justice of the Peace of the Town aforesaid And that the Bailiffs of the Town aforesaid for the time being shall from time to time execute the Precepts and Warrants of the same Mayor Recorder and other Justices of the Peace within the Town aforesaid for the time being and all other Things whatsoever like as any Sheriff of this our Kingdom of England by the Mandate of any Justice of Peace in any the Counties of us our Heirs and Successors within our said Kingdom hath been accustomed to do return or any way execute AND further we have nominated assigned and constituted and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do assign nominate and constitute the aforesaid Thomas Hall the now Mayor or now exercising the Office of Mayor of the Town aforesaid and the aforesaid Spencer Earl of Northampton the now Recorder or now exercising the Office of Recorder of the same town and the aforesaid Spencer Perceval the Deputy Recorder of the same Town to be our Justices of the Peace and of our Heirs and Successors within the Town aforesaid and the Liberties of the same Town so long as they respectively shall continue and be in their said respective offices of Mayor and Recorder and

Deputy Recorder of the same Town AND* WE HAVE also nominated constituted and appointed and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do nominate constitute and appoint Jeremiah Briggs¹⁶⁹ who last was Mayor or who last exercised the Office of Mayor of the said Town to be one other of our Justices of the Peace and of our Heirs and Successors within the Town aforesaid and the Liberties of the Same until the Election of a new Mayor of the same Town and that they our said Justices and others our Justices of the Peace to be appointed as aforesaid in the Town aforesaid for the Time being or three of them of which we will the Mayor and the Recorder or Deputy Recorder for the time being to be two have and every of them have full Power and Authority to enquire of hear and determine within the Town aforesaid and the Liberties and Precincts of the same as well in the Presence of us our Heirs and Successors as in the Absence of us our Heirs and Successors of and concerning all and all Manner of Murders felonies Misprisions Riots Routs Oppressions Extortions forestalling Regrating Trespasses Offences and all other Things whatsoever within the Town and the Liberties and Precincts of the same from time to time arising or happening which any ways belong or are incumbent or hereafter shall happen or may belong or be incumbent to the Office of a Justice of the Peace or which by any means ought or may be enquired of heard and determined before Justices of the Peace together with the Correction and Punishment thereof and to do and execute all other Things within the Town aforesaid and the Liberties of the same as fully and wholly and in as ample Manner and Form as our Justices of Peace or of our Heirs or Successors in the County of Northampton, or elsewhere within our Kingdom of England heretofore have had and exercised or hereafter can or may have or exercise by Virtue of any Commission Act of Parliament Law or Custom or by any other lawful Means whatsoever and in as ample Manner and Form as if the same had been Specially and by Special Words expressed mentioned and contained in these our Letters Patent and that without any Mandate or Warrant from us our Heirs or Successors in that Behalf to be hereafter procured or obtained and that our Justices of the Peace or of our Heirs or Successors of the same County of Northampton

* Seventh skin.

¹⁶⁹ Jeremiah Briggs was mayor of the town in 1793-4.

Court of
Record.

aforesaid or any of them may not hereafter intermeddle or concern themselves or himself within the Town or Liberties of the same nor have or exercise any Jurisdiction of any Causes Things or matters whatsoever which to the Office of a Justice of Peace of the Town aforesaid by Virtue of these our Letters Patent do belong or in any ways appertain AND moreover of our further Grace and of our certain Knowledge and meer Motion we will and by these Presents Do Grant and Confirm for Ourselves Our Heirs and Successors to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the said Town of Northampton and their Successors that they from henceforth for ever may have and hold and are empowered and enabled to have and hold one Court of Record to be holden in the Guildhall of the said Town of Northampton before the Mayor and Bailiffs of the said Town for the Time being of all and all Manner of such like Pleas Plaints and actions as well real as personal and mixed and of whatsoever Debts Accompts Trespasses Covenants Contracts Detentions and Contempts together with such and such like Views of frank Pledges Leets and other Courts within the said Town of Northampton Liberties Precincts and Jurisdictions of the same arising happening or befalling as and at such days and Times and in such like manner and form as heretofore hath been used and accustomed in the said Town and the same Pleas Plaints and Actions may hear and determine and Judgment thereupon give and Execution thereupon make for ever in the same Manner and form and by such and the like ways means and procefs by which and as heretofore hath been used in the Town aforesaid and that all Juries impannelled Inquisitions Attachments Precepts Mandates Warrants Judgments Proceses and other Things whatsoever necessary to be done within the Town or Liberties of the same touching or concerning the Causes aforesaid be done and executed by the Officers and Ministers of the Town aforesaid for the time being according to the due form of Law in the like Cases heretofore used in the Town aforesaid and that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the said Town of Northampton and their Successors may have and shall have to the use and benefit of the same all and all Manner of fines and Amerciaments Poundage on Execution and all other Profits of and in the Court aforesaid or by reason or pretext of the same Court from time to time for ever arising happening or contingent AND ALSO we

will and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do ^{Return of Writs.} Grant and Confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors that from henceforth for ever they may have and shall have Return of all our Writs and Precepts and of our Heirs and Successors and Execution of the same and Summon of our Exchequer and of our Heirs and Successors within the Town Liberties and Precincts of the same of and concerning all and every the Thing and Things within the same Town Liberties and Precincts of the same by any Means whatsoever arising so that no Sheriff or other Bailiff or Minister of us or of our Heirs or Successors may enter or presume to enter the Town Liberties and Precincts of the same for the Execution of the same Writs or for Summon and Attachments in Pleas of the Crown or other the Things aforesaid or to do or execute any other Office there unless on Default of them the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors AND MOREOVER of our especial Grace of our certain Knowledge ^{Mayor to be Clerk of the Market.} and meer Motion WEE* GIVE AND ORDAIN and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant and confirm to the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors that every Mayor of the said Town of Northampton for the Time being be and shall be Clerk of the Market within the same Town Liberties and Precincts of the same and that the said Mayor after he shall take his Corporal Oath well and faithfully to execute the Office of Clerk of the Market in Manner and Form in the same Town heretefore used may have occupy and hold the Office of Clerk of the Market within the same Town Liberties and Precincts of the same together with all and every the Things to that Office appertaining and belonging and that every Mayor of the said Town for the Time being shall and may execute and do all Things which any ways belong to or are incumbent on the Office of Clerk of the Market within the same Town of Northampton Liberties and Precincts of the same without any molestment or impeachment of us our Heirs or Successors or of any of our Ministers or Officers whatsoever And further ^{Grant of Fines and Amerciaments.} for the bettering of the State of the same Town and that other common Burdens there may from time to time be the better and more easily supported we will and have granted and of our

* Eighth skin.

especial Grace and of our certain Knowledge and meer motion for us our Heirs and Successors by these Presents Do Give and Grant and Confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors all and all Manner of Issues fines Amerciaments Ransoms Penalties Things lost and forfeited of all and every the Burgesses Persons resident and not resident whatsoever within the aforesaid Town Liberties and Precincts of the same and any of them before our Justices of Oyer and Terminer and of our Heirs and Successors within the aforesaid County of Northampton and before our Justices of Assize and of our Heirs and Successors in the same our County of Northampton and before our Justices of Gaol Delivery and of our Heirs and Successors in the said County of Northampton and before our Heirs and Successors their Justices for the keeping of the Peace and to hear and determine of divers felonies Trespasses and other Misdemeanors in the said County of Northampton assigned or to be assigned and before our Heirs and Successors their Justices or Commissioners upon the Statute of Sewers within the aforesaid County of Northampton assigned or to be assigned and before the Mayor Recorder and two Burgesses for the time being or three of them as aforesaid Justices of the Peace of us our Heirs and Successors within the Town Liberties and Precincts of the same being and before the Mayor of the said Town for the time being Clerk of the Market of us our Heirs and Successors within the same Town and the Liberties and Precincts of the same and also before all other Justices Commissioners or Ministers of us our Heirs and Successors whatsoever within the aforesaid County of Northampton to be forfeited lost foregone imposed made done offered or any ways sustained AND FURTHER of our more abundant Special Grace and of our certain Knowledge and meer Motion for us our Heirs and Successors Do Give and Grant and Confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors all and singular Deodands Goods and Chattels Waifs Estrays Goods Chattels Debts Rights and Credits of felons and fugitives Self Murderers Persons Outlawed and put in Exigent and of other Persons whatsoever attainted convicted or condemned from time to time happening growing or arising within the Town aforesaid and the Liberties of the same and to us our Heirs or Successors belonging or apper-

Grant of Deodands, Waifs, and Estrays.

taining AND also all and singular the forfeitures and Profits Grant of all Recognizances forfeited. of all and singular Recognizances had taken and acknowledged before the Mayor Recorder Deputy Recorder and other the aforesaid Justices of our Peace or before any one or more of them within the Town aforesaid for the Peace or good Behaviour towards us our Heirs or Successors and our liege People or for the appearance of any Person or Persons before the aforesaid Mayor Recorder and other the aforesaid Burgesses Justices of our Peace and of our Heirs and Successors there depending or to depend forfeited or to be forfeited from time to time and to Us Our Heirs and Successors any ways belonging or appertaining and also the forfeitures and Profits of all and singular other Recognizances before the Mayor Recorder Deputy Recorder and other Justices of our Peace or of our Heirs or Successors or before any one or more of them within the Town or Places aforesaid for any other Matter Cause or Thing whatsoever had taken or acknowledged or to be had taken or acknowledged and that it may and shall be lawful for the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the said Town of Northampton and their Successors all and singular Such like Issues fines Amerciaments Ransoms Penalties and forfeitures and all and singular the Premises above by these Presents afore granted from time to time to collect take seize and levy by the proper Ministers of the aforesaid Mayor Bailiff and Burgesses and their Successors and that without any Writ Warrant or Process from us our Heirs or Successors our or their Exchequer or from any other Court at Westminster to be issued made or in anywise obtained any Law usage Course or Custom of the said Exchequer or other our Courts heretofore had made or used or any other thing to the contrary thereof notwithstanding and the same Issues fines AMERCIAMENTS* forfeitures and profits to receive have and convert to the proper Use Behoof Benefit and Profit of the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors for ever and thereof themselves to put into Possession and Seizin without Account or any other thing thereof or any Part or Parcel thereof to us our Heirs and Successors to be rendered paid or made TO HOLD to the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the said Town and their Successors without impeachment Disturbance

* Ninth skin.

Molestation or Hindrance of us our Heirs and Successors or of our Justices Sheriffs Escheators Coroners or any other Officers or Ministers of us our Heirs and Successors whatsoever And for the better levying of the same fines Issues Profits forfeitures Goods Chattels and other the Premises by these Presents before granted we will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do give and grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors full Power License and Authority in the Name of them the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses and their Successors or else in the Name of us our Heirs or Successors to sue for and recover the aforesaid fines Issues Profits Amerciaments forfeitures Deodands Goods Chattels and other the Premises by these Presents before granted or any Parcel thereof against any Person or Persons whatsoever in any Court of Record according to the Law of this our Kingdom of England and the same so recovered to levy receive have and convert TO the only and proper Use and Behoof of them the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors Wherefore we will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do charge and command the Treasurer Chancellor Under Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer and all other Officers and Ministers of us our Heirs and Successors for the time being to whom in this Behalf it shall belong that they direct and cause to be directed all and whatsoever Writs and Proseses which in this behalf shall be requisite according to the Course and Custom of the Exchequer aforesaid to be made against whatsoever Person and Persons with the aforesaid Issues fines Amerciaments forfeitures Goods and Chattels and other the Premises or with any Thing of the Premises charged or to be charged and also that after the levying or recovery of the same Premises that our said Treasurer Chancellor Under Treasurer and Barons of our Exchequer and of our Heirs and Successors from time to time shall pay and deliver or cause to be paid and delivered the same Premises to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors without any Accompt or any other thing therefore To us our Heirs or Successors any ways to be rendered paid or made and these our Letters Patent or the Inrollment of them shall be from time to time unto the aforesaid Treasurer Chancellor Under Treasurer and Barons of the said Exchequer

and of our Heirs and Successors and to all other our Officers and Ministers and of our Heirs and Successors of the said Exchequer for the time being a sufficient Warrant and Discharge in this behalf AND FURTHER of our more abundant special Grace and of our certain Knowledge and meer Motion we have given granted ratified and confirmed and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do give grant ratify and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses and their Successors all those Lands Tenements and Hereditaments whatsoever commonly called or named Chamber Lands situate lying and being in or near the said Town of Northampton in the aforesaid County of Northampton or elsewhere which the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses of the aforesaid Town of Northampton or their Predecessors by whatsoever Name or Names or by whatsoever Incorporation or Incorporations or whether incorporated or not have heretofore of right and lawfully had held and enjoyed by Virtue of any Letters Patents or Grants to them by us or any of our Progenitors heretofore made or granted or by any lawful Custom Prescription or Usage or by any other lawful means whatsoever AND ALSO all and singular wastes void Soils Purprestures and Improvements within the Town and Liberties of the same being to have hold and enjoy the same Lands Tenements and Hereditaments called Chamber Lands and Wastes void Soils Purprestures and Improvements and other the Premises to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses and their Successors for ever Yielding therefore yearly to us our Heirs and Successors such the same of such Sort and in all Points alike Rents Services and Demands whatsoever which to us or our Progenitors for the same Premises before time have been due paid or answered and no others all which Things we will and by these Presents command to be kept inviolably AND WHEREAS we are credibly informed that the Mayor of the aforesaid Town of Northampton and his Predecessors by whatever Names they were called or have been incorporated from the Time whereof the Memory of Man is not to the contrary have used and YET^{*} DO USE to take Recognizances between Merchant and Merchant and to make Execution thereof according to the form of the Statute of Merchants and the Statute of Acton Burnell in that Case made

Grant of
Chamber
Lands.

Grant of
Waste Lands.

Power to take
Statute Recognizances
between Merchant and
Merchant.

* Tenth skin.

and provided we therefore willing that the ancient Custom so as aforesaid in the same Town used be from henceforth for ever continued in the same Town of our especial Grace and of our certain Knowledge and meer Motion for us our Heirs and Successors do by these Presents grant ratify and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors which for the time shall be from henceforth for ever may have according to the Custom aforesaid full power and authority to take all whatsoever Recognizances between Merchant and Merchant and to make Execution thereof according to the form and effect of the aforesaid Statute of Merchant and the aforesaid Statute of Acton Burnell in that Case made and provided AND FURTHER of our abundant Grace we do by these Presents assign nominate appoint and make our beloved John Jeyes now public Clerk of the Town aforesaid called the Town Clerk to the first and new Clerk of us our Heirs and Successors to take and write the aforesaid Recognizances according to the form and effect of the Statute aforesaid willing that the same John Jeyes shall be and continue in the same Office of publick Clerk of the same Town from the making of these Presents until the Day of the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel if he shall so long live and so long as he shall behave himself well in that Office and from the same feast until some other person fit for it shall be nominated and elected and sworn to that Office according to the Custom in the same Town used AND FURTHER we will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that the Mayor of the Town aforesaid for the time being and such Burgesses who have been or have exercised the Office of Mayor of the Town aforesaid in Manner herein before mentioned or hereafter from time to time shall have been Mayor of the Town aforesaid according to the Custom in the same Town used or the major part of the same yearly shall elect nominate assign constitute and make within ten Days next following the aforesaid first Day of August whatsoever fit Man to them shall seem to be good to be the Public Clerk or Prothonotary called Town Clerk of the Town aforesaid and that the Public Clerk or Prothonotary of the Town for the time being so as aforesaid elected nominated assigned constituted and made from time to

Town Clerk.

Election of
Town Clerk.

time and at all times shall continue our Clerk and of our Heirs and Successors to take the aforesaid Recognizances according to the form of the Statute in that Case made and provided and him and every public Clerk or Prothonotary of the Town aforesaid so from time to time elected nominated assigned constituted and made we do for us our Heirs and Successors by these Presents create make and constitute our Clerk and of our Heirs and Successors to take and write the aforesaid Recognizances according to the Form and Effect of the Statutes aforesaid MOREOVER we will and of our especial Grace and of our certain Knowledge and meer Motion for us our Heirs and Successors do give grant and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors that they for ever may have these nine fairs or Marts within the Town aforesaid and the Liberties of the same in every Year severally in Manner and Form following to be holden viz. that the said Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses may have and hold one fair or Mart of the said fairs or Marts at the said Town of Northampton in every Year for ever on the twenty eighth Day of february the fifth day of April the fourth Day of May the nineteenth Day of June the fifth day of August the twenty sixth Day of August the nineteenth Day of September the twenty eighth Day of November and the nineteenth Day of December and the Day preceding and the Day next following each and every of the said fair Days in every Year AND ALSO of our Grace aforesaid for us our Heirs and Successors we do give grant ratify and confirm unto the said Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors that they may have and hold and have Power to have and hold within the Town aforesaid like as heretofore the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the said Town have been accustomed to have and hold a free Market on every Wednesday Friday and Saturday in every Week through the Year for ever with Tollage and all Liberties Courts of Pipowder and free Customs to such fairs Marts and Markets pertaining or belonging yet so as the aforesaid fairs Marts and Markets be not to the Hurt of other neighbouring Markets Fairs or Marts Wherefore We Will and firmly command for us our Heirs and Successors that the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeises and their Successors for ever may have and hold the aforesaid fairs and Marts at the Town of

Grant of nine
Fairs.

Three Market
Days.

Free Customs
and Privileges.

Freemen not to
be impannelled
before Country
Justices unless
the King be
Party.

Northampton aforesaid or within the Liberties of the same in every year and those Markets on those Days in every week as beforesaid for ever and that they may have levy and take in all ffairs Marts and Markets aforesaid such reasonable toll or Tolls or Tollage for Beasts Chattels and other Things sold and bought in ffairs and MARKETS* aforesaid as lawfully and of right is had taken or levied in any Town Borough or City in the County of Northampton or as they or their Predecessors by whatsoever Name or Names or by whatsoever Title of Incorporation known or incorporated or whether they were incorporated or not have been at any time heretofore accustomed lawfully to take and levy WE Will also and grant and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that they have hold use and enjoy for ever all the Liberties free Customs Privileges and Quittances aforesaid according to the Tenor and Effect of these our Letters Patent without any Let or Hindrance of us our Heirs or Successors whatsoever being unwilling that the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid or any of them or any one of the Burgesses of the Town aforesaid by Reason of the Premises or any of them be disturbed molested vexed burthened or any wise disturbed by us or by our Heirs Justices Sheriffs Escheators or other Bailiffs or Ministers of us our Heirs or Successors whatsoever AND FURTHER We Will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do grant and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and freemen of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors be not put nor any of them be put or impannelled to appear in any Appeals Juries Assizes Recognizances or Inquisitions whatsoever before us our Heirs and Successors their Justices assigned to take the Assizes or Writs of Nisi Prius or to hear or determine of Treason felonies or other Misdemeanors or of the Peace within our County of Northampton or before our Heirs or Successors their Commissioners of Sewers or other Commissioners whatsoever or before Escheators or other Commissioners assigned to enquire of Matters belonging to the Office of Escheators or before any other Justices Sheriffs Escheators Bailiffs Officers and Ministers

* Eleventh skin.

of us our Heirs or Successors without the aforesaid Town of Northampton or the Liberties of the same nor shall they or any of them forfeit any Amerciament to us our Heirs or Successors on that Account in any wise therefore but be thereof quit and discharged and every of them be and shall be from time to time for ever quit and discharged unless those Juries Assize Pleas or Inquisitions concern us our Heirs or Successors AND MOREOVER We Will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors that if any Person or Persons being a Burgess or freeman of the same Town for the time being shall be lawfully nominated and elected according to the Manner and form in this present Charter directed to bear or exercise any Office or Place in the same Town and such Person or Persons having due knowledge and notice of such Election had and made shall refuse and deny to accept or exercise the Office or Place Offices or Places unto which he or they shall be nominated or elected that then and so often it may and shall be lawful for the Mayor and such Burgesses who have been Mayors of the Town aforesaid for the time being and the forty eight Burgesses commonly called the Company of eight and forty or the major part of them to tax and impose reasonable fines and Amerciaments upon such refuser or refusers as to the same or to the major part of the same shall seem to be reasonable to the Use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses aforesaid and the same to sue for and recover by Action of Debt in any of our Courts at Westminster AND FURTHER We Will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors that if any one or more of the Members of the said Corporation shall at any time or times hereafter neglect or refuse to attend at any Assembly or Assemblies of the said Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses to be hereafter from time to time held by Virtue of these Presents for the transacting the Business and Affairs of them the said Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and having had due Knowledge and Notice of such Assembly or Assemblies and not assigning or causing to be assigned to the Mayor and Justices or any three of them for the time being at the said Assembly a good and sufficient Cause or Causes for their non-attendance it shall

Fines for
non-acceptance
of Corporate
Offices.

Fines on the
Members for
not attending
Assemblies.

Power to
purchase Lands,
&c., not
exceeding £50
a year.

May take
Lands, &c., by
Devise &c.
not exceeding
£50 a year.

and may be lawful AND We do hereby authorise impower and command the Mayor and Justices of the said Town or any three of them to inflict and impose a reasonable fine or fines on such Member or Members so absenting himself or themselves as aforesaid not exceeding twenty Shillings nor less than six Shillings and eightpence of lawful Money of Great Britain to be forfeited to the Use of us our Heirs and Successors and to be levied and recovered by Process from our Court of Exchequer according to the Course and Custom of our said Court and as any other fines set lost imposed and forfeited to the Use of us our Heirs or Successors by any Law Custom Use or Prescription whatsoever are or may be levied and recovered AND MOREOVER We Will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do give and grant to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors special License Power and Authority to have purchase receive and possess to them and their Successors for ever Manors Messuages Lands Tenements Meadows Pastures feedings Woods Underwoods Rectories Tithes Rents Reversions and other Hereditaments whatsoever as well of us our Heirs and Successors as of any other Persons whatsoever so as the same Manors Messuages Lands Tenements and other Hereditaments do not in the Whole exceed the clear yearly value of fifty pounds above all Charges and Reprisals the Statute for not putting of Lands or Tenements in Mortmain or any other Statute Act Ordinance or Proviso heretofore had made ordained or provided or any other Thing Cause or Matter whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding WE give also and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do grant to any whatsoever Subject to us our Heirs or Successors special License full Power and Authority that they or any of them may and can lawfully and without any Danger give grant sell devise or alien any Manors Messuages Lands Tenements or other Hereditaments whatsoever to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors so as aforesaid all the Manors Messuages Land TENEMENTS* AND OTHER HEREDITAMENTS so to the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their Successors to be as aforesaid given granted aliened or devised do not in the whole exceed the clear yearly Value or

* Twelfth skin.

Rent of fifty pounds besides all Charges and Reprisals the Statute for not letting of Lands or Tenements in Mortmain or any other Thing Cause or Matter whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding AND FURTHER of our like special Grace and of our certain Knowledge and meer Motion We do for us our Heirs and Successors give grant and confirm to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors all and singular the Letters Patent Charters and Confirmations of whatsoever our dearest Progenitors and Ancestors to the same Mayors Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors by whatsoever Name or Names of Incorporation before times made granted and confirmed and all and singular Gifts Grants Confirmations Restitutions Customs Ordinances Explanations Articles and all other Things whatsoever in whatever Letters Patents or Charters of whomsoever our Progenitors or Ancestors Kings or Queens of England and also all and singular the Things in the said Letters Patents Charters Grants Confirmations or in any of them contained recited specified confirmed or explained and all and singular the Jurisdictions Authorities Privileges Liberties franchises Quittances Immunities free Customs and also all and singular Manors Lands Tenements Purprestures free Piscaries fishings and Hereditaments whatsoever which the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid or their Predecessors by the Name of the Burgeises of the Town of Northampton or by the Name of the Burgeises of Northampton or by the Name of the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town of Northampton or by the Name of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeises of the Town of Northampton or by any other Name whatsoever by reason or force of any Letters Patents Charters or Confirmations of any of our Progenitors Predecessors and Ancestors heretofore Kings and Queens of England at any time or times have had or reasonably have used or exercised We hold firm and good and for us our Heirs and Successors as much as in us is We accept and approve and all and singular the same to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid by the Tenor of these Presents We do ratify and confirm To have hold enjoy and exercise all and singular the Premises to the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors for ever as fully freely and entirely and in as ample

Confirmation of
all former
Grants.

Restoration of
Privileges.

Mayor, Bailiffs,
Burgesses,
Recorder, Deputy
Recorder,
Town Clerk,
&c., to take
Oaths of
Supremacy and
Allegiance.

Manner and Form as if they had been severally singularly and particularly in these Presents expressed named declared and recited Yielding therefore to us our Heirs and Successors all such the same such kind and in all points alike Rents Services and Demands whatsoever which to us our Progenitors or Ancestors have heretofore been due paid or answered for the same Premises and no other nor more We Will moreover and of our special Grace for us our Heirs or Successors Do grant that to the aforesaid Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Successors all and singular their Authorities Jurisdictions Liberties Privileges franchises Quittances Immunities and free Customs be restored and the same to them and their Successors We do restore by these Presents as fully and perfectly as they or their Predecessors in any the Days of us or any of our Progenitors Ancestors or Predecessors heretofore Kings and Queens of England have freely fully and beneficially had exercised used or enjoyed or ought to have exercise enjoy or use the same We Will also by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors and of our special grace do grant that although the same Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid have not hitherto used but perhaps have abused some one or more of the Authorities Jurisdictions Liberties Privileges franchises Immunities Quittances and free Customs in the aforesaid Letters Patents and Charters or in any part thereof contained or any other their Customs on any Case Emergent yet they the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town aforesaid and their Successors the same their Authorities Jurisdictions Liberties Privileges franchises Immunities Quittances and free Customs whatsoever totally disused or abused and every of them from henceforth fully may enjoy and use without let or hindrance of us our Heirs or Successors Justices Sherriffs Coroners Escheators or any other Bailiffs or Ministers whatsoever of us our Heirs or Successors any Cause Matter or Thing whatsoever in time past had made and provided to the contrary thereof notwithstanding AND FURTHER We Will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors We ordain and strictly command that the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses Recorder Deputy Recorder Common Clerk and all other Officers and Ministers of our Town of Northampton aforesaid and their Deputies and also all Justices of our Peace and of

our Heirs and Successors within the Town aforesaid in or by these our Letters Patent now nominated or by Virtue or according to the Tenor of the same Letters Patent or of any other Letters Patents heretofore made or hereafter to be nominated elected or constituted before they be admitted or any ways in this behalf intermeddle or any of them respectively do intermeddle with the Execution or Exercise of the Office or Offices Place or Places to which they are now as aforesaid respectively nominated appointed or constituted or hereafter shall be in Form aforesaid nominated elected and constituted they and every of them shall take as well the corporal Oath commonly called the Oath of Allegiance as also the Corporal Oath called the Oath of Supremacy upon the Holy Gospel of God before such Person or Persons as by the Law and Statutes of this Kingdom of England are at present appointed and assigned or hereafter to be assigned or appointed for to give and Administer such Oaths AND FURTHER We Will and do declare our Royal Mind That no Recorder Deputy Recorder or Town Clerk of the Town aforesaid hereafter to be elected or appointed do intermeddle in such Office or Offices or any of them respectively before they and every of them be respectively allowed of by us our Heirs or Successors any Thing in these Presents or any other Thing Cause or Matter whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding For as much as express mention &c IN WITNESS whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent WITNESS ourself at Westminster the second Day of April in the thirty sixth Year of our Reign

Recorder, Deputy Recorder, and Town Clerk to be approved by the King.

BY A WRIT OF PRIVY SEAL

WILMOT

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in English, on twelve skins of parchment, 28 inches wide, and 22 inches deep.

Each skin is ornamented with heraldic and floral designs all printed from copper plates. The first skin is most highly ornamented, and within the initial G is a portrait of the head and shoulders of the King, in full flowing wig, with chain of a knight of the garter round his neck.

Each skin bears an Inland Revenue stamp of the value of forty shillings.

The great seal of England in green wax, somewhat mutilated, remains attached to a green and white cord.

On the back it is indorsed:—

"26"

"Northampton New Charter."

Letters Patent of 8th George IV.

30TH AUGUST, 1827.

THIS grant is a license from the Crown to the Corporation, enabling them to exchange lands situate in the Parish of Saint Giles, for lands situate in Cotton End. It appears to be the only grant of the kind made to the town.

Abbreviated Transcript.

GEORGE THE FOURTH by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come Greeting WHEREAS the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of Northampton have humbly represented to us THAT the town of Northampton is an ancient Borough and by virtue of the Charter of 36th George III [hereinbefore printed at page 154] the Petitioners are a Corporation and are possessed of a piece of land called the Long Close containing 4 acres and 3 roods late in the tenure of the Rev. John Watts And also a piece of land called the Great Close containing 27 acres and 26 perches late in tenure of Robert Norman divided into two parts the South containing about 16 acres late in the tenure of William Brown and the North containing about 11 acres late in the tenure of Moses Jeffery which pieces of Land are part of the Chamber Lands belonging to the Petitioners situate in Cotton End in the Parish of Hardington and County of Northampton and contain in the whole 31 acres 3 roods and 26 perches and abut on the Northampton Turnpike

Road on the East THAT John Thomas Butt of Nowhall in the County of Wilts Esquire is possessed in trust for Edward Bouverie and Catharine his wife of two closes situate in the Parish of Saint Giles and Town of Northampton containing respectively 14 acres 2 roods and 22 perches and 10 acres and 11 perches formerly in the occupation of John Duckley and late of John Odell and William Odell Samuel Simons and Edward Peach and the piece of land called Barnes Meadow containing 10 acres and 11 perches formerly in the occupation of William Gutton afterwards of John Odell and then of Charles Whitworth THAT the Petitioners are satisfied that the lands situate in Cotton End and the lands situate in Saint Giles Parish are equal in value THAT the said John Thomas Butt hath proposed to the Petitioners to convey to them the lands in Saint Giles Parish in exchange for the lands in Cotton End AND THAT the Petitioners under the said Charter are entitled to purchase lands not exceeding the yearly value of fifty pounds and the lands so proposed to be taken in exchange are above such value THE Petitioners therefore most humbly pray us that we would be pleased to grant them our Royal License in Mortmain to take a conveyance of the lands in the Parish of Saint Giles in exchange for the lands in Cotton End KNOW YE therefore that we of our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion HAVE given and granted and DO give and grant to the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Town of Northampton our special license to accept a conveyance of the lands in the Parish of Saint Giles TO HOLD the same to the use of the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses and their successors for ever IN WITNESS whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent WITNESS ourself at our Palace at Westminster the thirtieth day of August in the eighth year of our reign

By writ of Privy Seal

SCOTT

This document, which is with the muniments of the borough, is written in English, on one skin, 25 inches wide and 19½ inches deep; ornamented with portrait of the King, shields of arms, and other devices. An Inland Revenue stamp of the value of £30 is impressed on the margin.

The whole of the great seal in yellow wax, in fair condition, remains attached in a tin box.

It is indorsed:—

"The Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeses
"of the Town of Northampton
"License in Mortmain to take
"Lands in Exchange."

5th & 6th William IV. c. 76.

9TH SEPTEMBER, 1835.

An Act to provide for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in England and Wales.

THIS act was passed to provide for the rule and government of all cities and boroughs mentioned in the schedule thereto, and for the absolute repeal of all grants, charters, or letters patent which were inconsistent with the act.

Under this statute the government of the town was entirely remodelled, many of the old privileges being taken away and many new ones granted.

Northampton is mentioned in the schedule to the act as a corporate body, styled "The Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of "Northampton," with three wards, six aldermen, and eighteen councillors, and as being one of the boroughs to have a separate Commission of the peace.

Letters Patent of 6th William IV.

5TH MARCH, 1836.

THIS is the first separate commission of the peace appointing justices to act for the borough; previous to this time the justices were appointed by the general letters patent or charters granted to the corporation. This grant was made in conformity with the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, sec. 98.

Transcript.

WILLIAM THE FOURTH by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith TO our beloved and faithful the Mayor of the Borough of Northampton and the Mayor of the said borough for the time being Marmaduke Newby Malster Daniel Hewlett George Peach and George Baker Gentlemen Henry Lenton Stockburn Malster¹⁹⁰ and George Buxton Gentleman Greeting KNOW YE that we have assigned you and every of you jointly and severally our Justices to keep our Peace in and throughout the Borough of Northampton and to keep and cause to be kept all Ordinances and Statutes made for the Good of our Peace and for the Conservation of the same and for the quiet rule and government of our People in all and every the Articles thereof in the said Borough according to the form and effect of the same And to chastise and punish all persons that offend against the form of these Ordinances or Statutes or any of them in the aforesaid Borough as it ought to be done according to the form of these Ordinances and Statutes And to cause to come before you or any of you all those who to any one or more of our People concerning their bodies or the

¹⁹⁰ Marmaduke Newby was mayor of the town in 1812-3. Daniel Hewlett in 1826-7. George Peach in 1837-8, and 1838-9, and Henry Lenton Stockburn in 1830-1. Marmaduke Newby was one of the bailiffs in 1808-9, Daniel Hewlett in 1816-7, and Henry Lenton Stockburn in 1825-6.

firing of their Houses have used threats to find sufficient security for the Peace or their good Behaviour towards us and our People And if they shall refuse to find such security then them in our Prisons until they shall find such security to cause to be safely kept AND THEREFORE WE COMMAND YOU that you diligently apply yourself to the keeping our Peace Ordinance Statutes and all and singular other the Premises and perform and fulfil the same in form aforesaid doing therein what to Justice appertaineth according to the Laws and Customs of England IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the fifth day of March in the sixth year of Our Reign

EDMUNDS

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in English on a plain skin of parchment, 24 inches wide and 20 inches deep.

The great seal in yellow wax, somewhat broken, remains attached.

On the back is written:—

“Northampton

“Commission of the Peace”

This grant is contained in a box of contemporary date, bound in red leather, tooled with gold.

Letters Patent of 6th William IV.

27TH MAY, 1836.

IN consequence of the Municipal Corporations' Act, 1835, it became necessary that the Corporation should obtain a new grant to enable them to hold a separate court of quarter sessions in the borough for the trial of prisoners.

Petition was therefore made to the King, and the new grant was accordingly obtained.

The fees paid in passing this grant under the great seal were as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Secretary of State's Office	0	0	0
Attorney General's Office	9	16	0
Signet Office	10	6	6
Privy Seal Office	2	8	0
Crown Office	15	8	6
Chief Clerk for passing the Patent (remitted) ...	0	0	0
Messengers, &c.	0	10	6
	<hr/>		
	£38	9	6
	<hr/>		

Transcript.

WILLIAM THE FOURTH BY THE GRACE OF GOD of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith TO our Trusty and Welbeloved The Mayor Aldermen and Burgeſſes of the BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON and to the Inhabitants of the ſaid Borough and to all Others whom it may concern Greeting WHEREAS the Council of the ſaid Borough has pursuant to the provisions of an Act paſſed in the ſixth year of our Reign entitled "An Act to provide for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in England and Wales" ſignified by Petition to Us in our Council the deſire of the Council of the ſaid Borough that a Separate Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace ſhall continue to be holden in and for the ſaid Borough NOW KNOW YE that We having taken the Matter of the ſaid Petition into our Consideration and being above all things anxious to promote the due adminiſtration of Juſtice have thought fit to comply with the ſaid Petition And we therefore do hereby grant unto the ſaid Borough that a Separate Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace ſhall henceforth continue to be holden in and for ſuch Borough according to the Proviſions of the ſaid Act AND FURTHER know ye that We do assign the Recorder for the time being of the ſaid Borough our Juſtice to enquire the Truth more fully by the Oath of good and lawful Men of the aforeſaid Borough by whom the Truth of the Matter ſhall be better known of all and all Manner of Felonies and Miſdemeanors and of all and ſingular other crimes and offences of which Juſtices of our

Peace may or ought lawfully to enquire by whomsoever or after what manner soever in the said Borough done or perpetrated or which shall happen to be there done or attempted and of all and singular Articles and Circumstances and all other things whatsoever that concern the Premises or any of them by whomsoever and after what manner soever in our aforesaid Borough done or perpetrated or which hereafter shall there happen to be done or attempted in what manner soever And to inspect all Indictments whatsoever so before him the said Recorder taken or to be taken or before others late our Justices of the Peace in the aforesaid Borough made or taken and not yet determined and to make and continue Processes thereupon against all and singular the Persons so Indicted or who before the said Recorder hereafter shall happen to be Indicted until they can be taken surrender themselves or be outlawed And to hear and determine all and singular the Felonies Misdemeanors and offences aforesaid and all and singular other the premises according to the Laws and Statutes of England as in the like case it has been accustomed or ought to be done before and by our Courts of Quarter Sessions in England And the same Offenders and every of them for their Offences by Fines Ransoms Amerciaments Forfeitures and other means as according to the Law and Custom of England or form of the Ordinances and Statutes aforesaid it has been accustomed or ought to be done to chastize and punish PROVIDED ALWAYS that if a case of difficulty upon the determination of any of the Premises shall happen to arise before the said Recorder for the time being then Judgement shall in nowise be given thereon before him unless in the presence of one of our Justices of the one or other Bench or of one of our Justices appointed to hold the Assizes in the County of Northampton AND therefore We command the said Recorder for the time being that to keeping the Peace Ordinances Statutes and all and singular other the Premises he diligently apply himself And that at certain days and places which he shall appoint for those purposes into the Premises he make enquiry and all and singular the Premises hear and determine and perform and fulfil them in the aforesaid form doing therein what to Justice appertains according to the Law and Custom of England Saving unto Us the Amerciaments and other things to Us therefrom belonging AND We command by the tenor of these Presents the Proper

Officers of the aforesaid Borough that at certain days and places which the said Recorder shall make known to them they cause to come before him the said Recorder so many and and such good and lawful Men of the said Borough by whom the Truth of the Matter in the said Premises shall be the better known and enquired into IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent WITNESS Ourself at Westminster the twenty seventh day of May in the sixth year of our Reign

BY WRIT OF PRIVY SEAL

EDMUNDS

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in English on one skin of parchment, 28 inches wide and 21 inches deep.

It is ornamented with portraits of the King and Queen, the royal arms, and other designs, printed from copper plates.

Fragments of the great seal, in yellow wax, inclosed in a tin box, remains attached to the red cord.

It is contained in a leather covered box, similar to that containing the previous grant.

Letters Patent of 1st Victoria.

17TH NOVEMBER, 1837.

THIS grant is drawn on the same lines as the previous commission of the peace, the same magistrates are mentioned, and in addition thirty one new names, which were no doubt added at various ways.

Transcript.

VICTORIA by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith TO our beloved and faithful the Mayor of the Borough of North-

ampton [and so forth, repeating the letters patent of the 6th William IV., hereinbefore printed on page 187.] WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the seventeenth day of November in the first year of our Reign

Edmunds

In the margin of this document are written the following additional names:—

William Williams Currier Thomas Sharp Civil Engineer Thomas Hagger Merchant George Armfield Chemist Thomas Cooke Esquire John Marshall Grocer Francis Parker Edward Harrison Barwell William Hollis John Groom William Strong George Barry Esquires William Hensman Grocer William Roberts Ironfounder Edmund Francis Law Architect William Harrison Barwell John Phipps James Berridge Norman Draper Mark Dorman Stationer James Barry Chemist Pickering Phipps Perry Miller William Adkins Merchant Thomas Shepard Leather Seller Joseph Gurney William Hill William Jones Henry Marshall Henry Mobbs William John Peirce Richard Turner James Wetherell Esquires¹⁹¹

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are written in English on a plain skin of parchment, 23 inches wide and 18 inches deep.

The great seal of England, encased in leather, is attached.

On the back is written:—

"Northampton."

¹⁹¹ William Williams was mayor of the town in 1840-1, and 1853-4; Thomas Sharp in 1839-40, and 1846-7; Thomas Hagger in 1838-9 and 1851-2; John Marshall in 1828-9, 1829-30; Francis Parker in 1849-50, and 1850-1; Edward Harris Barwell in 1842-3, 1843-4, 1844-5; John Groom in 1845-6; William Hensman in 1857-8; William Roberts in 1858-9; Edmund Francis Law in 1859-60; John Phipps in 1831-2; James Berridge Norman in 1867-8; Mark Dorman in 1863-4; James Barry in 1865-6, and 1888-9; Pickering Phipps Perry in 1870-1; William Adkins in 1869-70, and 1874-5; Joseph Gurney in 1875-6, and 1879-80; William Jones in 1872-3; Henry Marshall in 1871-2; William John Peirce in 1881-2; and Richard Turner in 1873-4.

Letters Patent of 41st Victoria.

1ST MARCH, 1878.

THE present borough magistrates sit by virtue of this commission, which is drawn in a somewhat different manner from the preceding commissions, the mayor of the town is not mentioned by name, and the magistrates' names are placed in a schedule in order of seniority.

Transcript.

VICTORIA BY THE GRACE OF GOD of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith To the Mayor of the Borough of Northampton now and for the time being and the persons named in the Schedule hereto GREETING KNOW YE that We have assigned you and every of you jointly and severally Our Justices to keep Our Peace in and throughout the said Borough of Northampton and to keep and cause to be kept all Ordinances and Statutes made for the good of Our Peace and for the conservation of the same and for the quiet rule and government of Our People in all and every the articles thereof in the said Borough according to the Form and Effect of the same and to chastise and punish all persons that offend against the form of those Ordinances or Statutes or any of them in the aforesaid Borough as it ought to be done according to the form of those Ordinances and Statutes and to cause to come before you or any of you all those who to any one or more of Our People concerning their Bodies or the firing of their houses have used threats to find sufficient security for the Peace or their good behaviour towards Us and Our People and if they shall refuse to find such security then them in Our Prisons until they shall find such security to cause to be safely kept AND therefore We Command you that you diligently apply yourselves to the keeping Our Peace Ordinances Statutes and all and singular other the premises and perform and fulfil the same in form aforesaid doing therein what to Justice appertains

according to the Laws and Customs of England IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the first day of March in the forty first year of Our Reign

C. ROMILLY

SCHEDULE.

Francis Parker—William Hensman—William Williams—Edmund Francis Law—John Phipps—James Berridge Norman—James Barry—Pickering Phipps Perry—William Adkins—Thomas Shepard—Joseph Gurney—William Hill—William Jones—Henry Marshall—William Mills—William Coulson—William Griffiths Hollis—Robert Derby—Richard Cleaver—Moses Philip Manfield—Thomas Adams—Frederick Covington—George Minards Tebbutt—Daniel Stanton—Frederick George Adnitt—John Bingley—Robert Brice—The Judge of the County Court of Northamptonshire holden at Northampton for the time being—Henry Martin—Henry Edward Randall—Henry Butterfield—Samuel Smith Campion—

These letters patent, which are with the muniments of the borough, are printed in English on one skin of parchment, 22½ inches wide, and 17½ inches deep.

This document, with the exception of the name of the borough, the date, and the schedule, is entirely printed. The royal arms are also printed in the centre of the first line.

The great seal is impressed on a wafer in the left hand upper corner.

It is indorsed:—

“Borough of Northampton.

“COMMISSION of PEACE.”

The Northampton Toll Cause.

LANCUM, PLAINTIFF, AGAINST LOVELL, DEFENDANT.

Easter Term 1st William IV., to Michaelmas Term, 4th William IV.

This was an action brought by Mr. Lancum against Mr. Lovell, to recover two small sums of money—one, the sum of fourpence, for a toll claimed for the entry of a waggon into the town of Northampton, and the exit of the wagon with a load;—the other, the sum of eightpence, which was claimed for a market toll, a penny per beast for beasts bought by the defendant in the market of Northampton.

This cause was tried before the Lord Chief Justice Tindal and a Special Jury at the Guildhall, in the City of London, commencing the 21st February, 1832.

The case was heard at great length, and evidence of all kind was taken. Domesday Book, Pipe Rolls, Hundred Rolls, Charters, Acts of Parliament, Leases, Tables of Tolls; the Town Clerk, Solicitors, Tolls Collectors, Farmers, Carriers, and Butchers were alike examined. The counsel employed were eminent, and the arguments used learned, and the summing up concise and brilliant.

Ultimately the jury found a verdict for the Plaintiff on both counts, with damages of one shilling.

On the 19th April, 1832, a new trial was moved for, on the ground of the admission of improper evidence; and the rule for the new trial was granted. On the 10th of May, 1832, cause was shown why the new trial should not be granted. The question was argued at great length, and for many days, and on the 21st January, 1833, Mr. Justice Park gave judgment that the rule for the new trial should be made absolute.

The cause again came before the Court on the 5th November, 1833, when counsel stated that the rule for a new trial had not been drawn up, but that the Defendant had in the meantime died. Nine days later Lord Chief Justice Tindal gave judgment that the rule for a new trial should be discharged, remarking that they "had better choose a younger defendant next time," as he thought "the old gentleman did quite right to withdraw himself."

Thus this memorable trial came to an end.

Liber Custumarum Villæ Northamptonæ.

Circa 1460.

THIS volume containing the customs of the town of Northampton, is the most quaint and valuable of all the borough records. Indeed it is a treasure such as few English boroughs possess.

It was compiled about the middle of the fifteenth century by an unknown hand, and treats of the customs, usages, evidences, and laws then existing in the town, to which were added in subsequent times later rules and decisions. The compilation was evidently most carefully made for the purpose of preserving the records and law precedents of the borough in accessible form, and it gives us the only knowledge we possess of much that is contained in its pages. The original documents from which the book was first compiled have been destroyed, some probably intentionally as being of no further use after the clerkly transcript was made about 1460, some probably in the Great Fire of 1675, when the Guild Hall was partially burnt, and many of the Corporation records were lost. The LIBER CUSTUMARUM, however, was fortunately saved intact.

The transcript is beautifully executed. The book consists of 148 leaves of fine vellum, 8½ inches by 6½ inches. The initials are mostly rubricated, but many of the capitals at the commencement of the paragraphs have not been filled in. Both the black and red inks are in good condition. The appearance of the last page indicates that after being written, the manuscript was kept unbound for some years, and the binding itself is evidently some thirty or forty years later than the handwriting. It is late fifteenth or early sixteenth century work. The boards are of oak, and the vellum leaves are sewn round four leather bands which pass twice through the boards to afford a secure hold. The boards are covered with calf. There are four square plates of brass at the corners of each cover, and a lozenge of brass is affixed in the centre; and in the middle of each of the ten brass plates is a small boss for ornamentation. Attached to

the front cover by leather hinges were two brass clasps, of which, however, only the lower now remains. The covers are stamped, front and back, with a double running pattern, made up of different devices in small panels—two birds like swans addorsed, with wings disclosed; a creature like a large fish; a fleur de lis; an insect with five wings disclosed on each side; and so on.

The condition of the book is excellent, nearly every letter being still perfectly legible, but there are one or two slight imperfections such as the mutilation of a few pages.

Of the character of the contents of the book it is not necessary here to speak. On the fly-leaves have been written a few common law forms, two in Latin and two in mediæval English. Then follow some letters patent from the monarch to the mayor, leading up to the table of contents of the volume as originally transcribed. This table commences:

Hic incipit tabulam debet
vsagez et Customez de Norhampton.

Fifty-eight headings are given in this table, all in English. As the chapters themselves end on the verso of folio 26, it is at once apparent that the table is but a faint indication of the contents of the book, which comprise various ordinances, acts of parliament, charters, and other documents. The whole is written indifferently in contracted Latin, Norman-French, and mediæval English.

Liber Custumarum Villæ Northamptoniæ.

[FORM OF WRIT OF SUPERSEDEAS.]

Forma ad faciend supersedias
p Accoe tn̄gr^o & contemp^t

Johnes Asteley Maior Ville
Norht ac Justic^o ad pacem dñi
Regis infra eandem consuandę
Assign ballis eiusdm̄ & eoz
cuilib; Saltm̄ Quia Edmund
Preston harp de Norht cap^t &
in prisona itm̄ sub custodia
vr̄a deten^t existit ad respon-
dendę tam dñi Regi qm̄ Thome
Kendale taillo' &c de p̄ito
transgr^o & contemp^t contra
formam statuti de s̄uient^o edit ac
iam p̄ eo q^d itm̄ Edmundus
inuenit coram me sufficient^r
secur^o essendę coram nobis ad
px husteng itm̄ tenendę &c ad
respondendę tam dñi Regi qm̄
p̄fat^o Thom̄ Kendale de p̄miss^o
Ideo ex pte dñi Regis vobis &
alⁱ vrm̄ mando q^d p̄fat Edm̄
Aprisona si ea de causa & non

Form for making supersedeas¹⁰³ [Folio 12.]
for an action of trespass and con-
tempt

John Asteley¹⁰³ Mayor of the
town of Northampton and a
Justice appointed to keep the
peace of our lord the King within
the same to the bailiffs of the
same and each one of them Greet-
ing Whereas Edmund Preston
Harper¹⁰⁴[?] of Northampton has
been taken and remains detained
in prison there in your custody to
answer as well our lord the King
as Thomas Kendale tailor &c on
a plea of trespass and contempt
contrary to the form of the statute
made concerning serving-men and
forasmuch as the same Edmund
has found before me sufficient
security for appearing before us
at the next hustings there to be
held etc to answer as well our
lord the King as the aforesaid

¹⁰³ This is a writ that lies in certain cases, and signifies in general a command to stay some ordinary proceedings at law, on good cause shown, which ought otherwise to proceed.

¹⁰³ John Asteley was mayor of the town in 1488-9.

¹⁰⁴ Edmund Preston Harper cannot all be the man's name. No double Christian names were in existence at that date. Probably he was a harper by trade.

alia detin sine dilacoe delibar
faciatis Et hoc non omitate &c
Da

Thomas Kendale concerning the
premisses Therefore on behalf of
our lord the King I charge you
and each of you that if the
aforesaid Edmund is detained in
prison for that reason and no
other you cause him to be set
free without delay and that you
do not neglect this &c Given

[FORM OF SUPERSEDEAS.]

N maior ville Norht ac
Justic⁹ ad pacem dñi Regis infra
eandm cont⁹uand Assigna ballis
eiuidm & eoz cuilibz Saltm Quia
N de N capl & in psona ibm
sub custodia vra detent existit ad
respondende tam dño Regi qm
Thome hunt &c de plac⁹ tñgre⁹
et contempt⁹ contra formam
statuti de s⁹uient edit ac iam p
eo qd idm N inuenit coram me
sufficient secur⁹ essend [cor-]
am nobis ad px husteng⁹ itm
tenende post fñm sci hillari px iam
futura &c

N¹⁰⁵ Mayor of the town of
Northampton and a Justice ap-
pointed to keep the peace of our
lord the King within the same to
the bailiffs of the same and each
of them Greeting Whereas N
of N has been taken and re-
mains detained in prison there in
your custody to answer as well
our lord the King as Thomas
Hunt etc on a plea of trespass
and contempt contrary to the
form of the statute made con-
cerning serving-men and foras-
much as the same N has found
before me sufficient security for
appearing before us at the next
hustings there to be held after
the feast of Saint Hilary next
ensuing &c

¹⁰⁵ N. or nomen, standing in each case for the name.

[FORM OF POWER OF ATTORNEY.]

[Folio 1b.]

[T]HE x^o daie of June the yere of o^r lorde god mⁱ iiij^o iiiij^o viij^o [Thursday, 12th June, 1488] J. A. B. of Norhampton &c M^ochaunt of the staple at Calle. haue made. Ordeigned. and subtitude. C. D. m^ochaunt of the same staple myn Attney gyvyng and grauntyng vnto the seide C. D. my full power And auctorite to Receyve ousee Allyeve and delyue all the marchaundisez appteigning vnto me now beeyng wⁱn the Jurisdiction of the saide staple Or that by me shalbe sente vnto the seide Estaple hereaft And the mony growyng of the Sales of the seide m^ochaundisez to the seide. C. D. or his Attney to Receyve It. to the vie and profite of me Constituante aft the Rule and Ordenaunce of the seid Estaple. Now made or to be made to emplede p^rsue a Reste disarest and in a Reste holde his dettours. be fore all man^o of Juge. and Justice as the seid. C. D. Attⁿey aforeseid shalbe thought necessarie and expedient To hynde the seid A. B. for his own. prope maters and cawfis in allman^owise To Receive acquite. and gyve acquitaunce suche as shal appteyn To Substitute oon. or moo In his absence And theym and they^r Power. to revoke. at his pleashe. And gen^llye. all other thyng^e necessarie and behoefull in the p^rmissis To do Sey spede and equite. as fully as yf J the seide. A. B. constituant shuld now doo. yf J were p^rsente in my prope parson. Promyttyng the same. A. B. to have and holde ferme and aggreable at all Daies. all and euy thyng that by the forseide C. D. his Attney. Or by his substitute or substitutes or eny of theym shalbe doon seid spede and executid in the p^rmissis and in yche of theym And ou^t that the seyde. A. B. Constituante Wyllyth and grauntythe by this p^rsent entre. That allman^o of power by hym grauntid to eny man^o p^rson before the day of this entre. be as voyde and of non valure ne effecte in enywyse in tyme to come To all and singler the p^rmissis above wreton J haue Setto my Seale &c And at the speciall Instaunce and Requeste of me In so moche as my Seale Js vnknownen to many of you. the worshipfull ff. ff. G. mayre of the toun abovesaid hath setto the seall of his office the day and yere Abovesaide &c

[Folio 2a.]

[FORM OF RELEASE TO THE BAILIFFS.]

[Folio ab.]

To the Kyng our liege lorde¹⁹⁶

Please it your highnes of yo^r most noble and habundaunt grace to graunte vnto youre trewe and feithfull liege men John Wattes¹⁹⁷ And Thomas Bodyngton late Bailliff of your town of Norhampton your gracious tres of Prive Seall in form as folowith to be made. And the seide late Bailliff shall pray to god for the pieruacoⁿ of your most noble and Royall astate

[Folio ga.]

Henry by the grace of god &c. To the Tresorer and Barons of our Eschequer gretyng. fforasmuche as the men of the towⁿ of Norhampton ar to vs yerely Charged in the Sum^m of cxxⁱⁱ of and for the fferme of the same town. of the which cxxⁱⁱ to vs due as from the ffeite of Seint Michell tharchaungell in the seconde yere of o^r Reigⁿ vnto the ffeite of Seint Michell tharchaungell then next ensuyng. that is to say for a hole yere John Wattes Tho^ms Bodyngton beyng Bailliff for and by all the seide tyme beyng vppon their Accompt of their seide office for the same tyme byn Chargyd vnto us At & in our Eschequer as in the same our Eschequer more pleynly doth Appere of Recorde. We of our speciall grace & mere mocion and for certain Consideracoⁿs sp^ecially Mevyng. Pardon remitte & releffe vnto the seide John Wattes & Thomas Bodyngton late bailliff of our seide town of Norhampton by what soe^ur name or names thei or eny of theym ben named. xxijⁱⁱ pcell of the seide cxxⁱⁱ for the seide tyme. And therefor woll and charge you our seide Barons that ye allowe Acquite and discharge the seide late bailliff and eu^eryche of them. Ayenste us in theire seide Accompt of the seide. xxijⁱⁱ And for eu^ery pcell therof. And that ye surcesse of all manⁿ pcelles execucions suytes & demaundes which We haue or may have Ayenste theym or eny of theym for the seide xxijⁱⁱ or eny pcell theroff. That expresse mencion of the certaynte of the seide Accompt or eny other thyng Concernyng the pmisses heryn be not hadde or made or Any Acte ordenaunce prouysyoⁿ or Restreynte made or hadde to the contrary movyng not withstondyng yeu^en.

By the Kyng.

¹⁹⁶ This release appears to have been a temporary relief, and anticipatory of the letters patent of 5th Henry VIII., hereinbefore printed on page 113.

¹⁹⁷ John Wattes and Thomas Bodyngton were bailiffs of the town in 1487.

[LETTERS PATENT FROM THE KING TO THE MAYOR
CONCERNING THE PEACE OF THE TOWN]

Trusty and Welbiloued. We grete you wele. Nat doutyng but that your wisdomes can remembre and wele confidre. that the vse and encreceignyng of sad rule and good gouⁿnaunce in eu^y citie and town. furit & principally pleaseth god. establissheth parfite reste and tranquillite. noreissheth and encreaseth loue. causith plente and habundance and lawes to haue their due courtes. iustice to be indifferently ministred and executed. the vniu^sall wele alway inhauncyng and flouryng bi these behalues. And bi the contrary way and vse ensuen comocions striffe debatis pouertie and miserie and many other inconuenience. The pel and daunger whereof muil of reason be arrected and leide to the charge of thoo persones. hauyng rule and auctorige where any misgouⁿnaunce be haunted if bi thair omisions and nealigence thoffendours be suffered. to renne in boldenete vnpunished. And forasmoch as we haue and here as good mynde and large affection to all our true subgette and be desirous of the comon wele of this our reame as eu^y did any our noble predecessours god be our Juge. Therefore we write vnto you at this tyme. desiring and straitly comaundyng you to endeavour you from hensforth bi yo^r best wisdomes and diligence to see that good rule and substantiall guyding be firmly had and effectuelly folowed in all places wⁱn yo^r iurisdicion. hauyng such good and wise awarte continually that if any vagabunde riotus or vngodly disposed personnes restiant or repairing amonge you presume or take vpon thaym. to make any embrac^oies affrayes or debates bi colour or boldenete of lyvereyes or othirwise or to sowe any seducious langaage arreise any Rumours or forge and contrive newes or tithinge of vs or any estate of this oure land. or of othir wⁱoute the the same. to abuse and blynde our innocent subgiette prouokyng and enducyng thaym to renne or falle into rebellion and disobeissauce in subuersion of all good rule and policie. Ye than faille nat to attach and comitte to suer warde wⁱoute baille or deliuerance. all thoo that ye shall fynde gylty or suspect in the p^rmisses and to certifie vs thair names wⁱ the spialite of thair offensis. to thentent that we may yeue you for yo^r good acquittal our spiall thanke and to shewe you therupon our furthir pleasur. for thair due and lawful punicion. latyng you witt that if it come to our eeres and pfaite knowledge that ye sulre such myrled people vying any unfitting langage. or reising any rumours or offending in any poyntis abouereherfed. to escape you unpunished

[Folio 3b.]

[Folio 4a.]

contrarie to yo^r duete both anempst god and vs. We shall so sharply leie it to yo^r blame and charge w^t puniſſment accordyng . as ſhalbe to the ferefull pſident and greuous example of al othir our ſubgiette and officers diſobeifant to execute our like and ſpial cōmaundement hereaftir . Which thinge therfor we aduiſe you to call and take to hert accordyngly . yeuen vudre our Signet at our Caſtell of Wyndeſor the vjth day of Juyn

[LETTERS PATENT FROM THE KING TO THE MAYOR
RESPECTING ARROW MAKERS.]

To our truſty and welbeloued the Mair and Aldermen
of o^r Towne of Norhampton

Henricus dei grā Rex Anglie
et franc et Dominus Hibnic
ditco ſibi Simoni Motte. Saltim
Sciatis qd assignamus te ad tot
ſagittarios ſeu ſcre ſagittar &
barbiſt ac alios artifices quot
pſcura itaqz que nos infra breue¹⁹⁸
de nouo fieri & ordinari intendim^r
neceſſarij ſunt & oportuni ubi-
cumqz inueniri potunt tam infra
libtates qm ext^r arreſtand et
capiend & eos & eoꝝ quem it in
opaconibꝫ nſis citra¹⁹⁹ facuſ dicar
ſagittar ad vad nra Ciuitate
London nobis ſeruitur ponend
ſeu poni faciend necnon ad
huiuſmodi ſagittas & maherem
p eiſdem barbiſt

Henry by the grace of God
King of England and France and
Lord of Ireland to his beloved
Simon²⁰⁰ Motte Greeting Know
that we have appointed you to
arrest and take as many archers
or makers of arrows and arrow-
heads and other workmen as
shall be neceſſary and qualified
for the making of . . .²⁰¹ which
we have directed in a brief to be
made and ordained anew where-
ſoeuer they can be found as well
within the liberties as without
and to place or cauſe to be placed
them and every one of them in
our ſervice about the making
of the ſaid arrows at our wages
in the city of London to ſerue
us and moreover to take arreſt
and provide for arrows of this
kind and timber for the ſame

¹⁹⁸ *Infra breue* may poſſibly mean *within a ſhort time*.

¹⁹⁹ *Citra* ſeems corrupt here: it ought to mean *without regard to*.

²⁰⁰ Simon Motte: No Mayor of this name can be traced, perhaps this Simon Motte was an Alderman or Bailiff.

²⁰¹ Perhaps *arrows*.

Sericum ceram plumas & alia
 Stuffura & necessaria quecūq;
 que pte p opatōe p̄dca⁹ videbunt^r
 oportuna p denariis n̄ris in hac
 pte rōnabili^r Soluendē capiendē
 arrestandē & puidendē. Et ideo
 tibi p̄cipim⁹ qd circa p̄missa dili-
 gent⁹ intendas & ea fac⁹ &
 exequaris informa p̄dca⁹. Damus
 autem vnūtiis & singulis vice-
 comitib; Majorib; Balliuis ac
 fidelib; legeis n̄ris quoz int⁹est
 in hac parte tenore p̄sentm̄ firmit⁹
 in mandatis qd tibi in executōe
 p̄missoz intendentes sint obe-
 dientes & auxiliantes in omib;
 ut decet. In cuius rei testimonm̄
 has tras n̄ras fieri fecim⁹ patentes
 T me ip̄o apud Maideston t̄tio
 die Januarij Anno r̄ n̄ quarto.
 p billam Magr̄ ordinatoim̄ ipsius
 Regis

Bachelor

arrow-heads silk wax feathers
 and other stuffs and necessities
 whatsoever which in part shall
 seem suitable for the aforesaid
 work for money of ours in this
 portion to be reasonably paid
 And so we charge you diligently
 to attend to the premisses and do
 them and complete them in the
 form aforesaid But we give to
 all and singular our sheriffs
 mayors bailiffs and faithful lieges
 whom it concerns in this part by
 the tenor of the presents firmly
 in command that they be atten-
 tive obedient and assisting to you
 in the execution of the premisses
 in all things as is fit In testi-
 mony whereof we cause these
 our letters to be made patent
 Witness myself at Maidstone the
 third day of January in the
 fourth year of our reign [Satur-
 day, 3rd January, 1489] By a
 bill of the Master of the Or-
 dinances of the King himself

Bachelor

[Folio 4b.]

[LETTERS PATENT FROM THE KING TO THE MAYOR
RESPECTING ARROW MAKERS.]

Herri bi the grace of god kyng of Englund and of fraunce and lorde of Jrelond. To his welbelouyd Symond Motte³⁰² gretyng. knowe ye that we haue Assigned the. that asmany arowe makers or makers of arowes. and arowe hedes and other artificers As that for the makying of our arowes the which We within shorte tyme of newe to be made and ordeyned. we intende. be necessary & be honeable wheresom²e thei may be founde Aswele wⁱⁿ the libtees as wroute to be arrested and taken them and eu^{er}ych of them in our² werkis. Aboute the makying of the seide arowes to bee put or do to be put in our wages in the Cite of London to us for to serue. And the same arowes and tymber for the same Arowe hedes silk wex ffethurs and others stuffures and necessities whatsoe^{er}e thei bee the which for the werkis Aforesaid shall be sene behoneable for our mony in this ptie resonably to be paied to take to arrest and to provide. And therfor to the We comaunde that abowte the p^{ro}mys^{es} diligently thow Attende. And thoo thow doo to be executed in forme aforesaide. Yevyng to all eu^{er}ych Sherefes Mairis Bailiffes and to other our true liege people of whom hit shalbe long in this ptie bi the tenour of thise p^{re}s^{ent} tres stedfastly yeue in comaundement that the executoⁿ of the p^{ro}miss^{es} thei be attendyng obeiyng & helpyng in all thyng^e as hit shalbe long. In wittnesse of the which thyng thise tres patent^{es} we haue made wittnesse my selfe att Maiditon the thirde day of January the ffourth yere of our reign

[Folio 5a.]

Bi the kyng

Bi bille of the Maiter
of the ordenaunce of the
same kyng

³⁰² See note 201 on last page.

[LETTERS PATENT FROM THE KING TO THE MAYOR
RESPECTING THE LEVYING OF TROOPS.]

Trusty and welbeloued we grete you wele and forasmoche as bi
thaduis of our grete counsaile . we haue appointed an Armee of vj m^a
men to go in bretayne for the relief and succo^r of the same in eschewyng
the inconvenient that might ensue to this our realme . We trultyng
in your wises and faithfull disposicions towardis vs hau addressed
oure Comysfions to you to thentent that ye shall calle bi fore you the
gentille and men of honour of our Countie of North Wherefore
We desyre and pray you to endeuour you therupon to make
due enserche howe many hable men well and defensibly Arraied.
We may haue oute of the saide Countie to do vs f^ouis in this our
armee forsaide & to be redy at o^r porte of Portesmouth the laste day of
february next comyng eche of theym vj^a for xx^a myles eu^ey day and
a preste of thaire wagis for iiij monethes . And that ye deuide your
selfe in eu^ey partie of o^r said Countie in such sadde wise as ye may
the rather certifie vs what noumbre of hable p^ones arraied as a boue
the same o^r said Countie may make and ye put vs in knowlege hereof
bi the x^a day aftir the begynnyng of our pliaiment Doyng that herin
yours effectuell deuoures and diligence settyng aparte all fauour mede
and p^ocialite as our espiall trust is in you Yeuen vndre o^r signet
at our Manor of Shenece the xxiiij^a daie of Decembre

[Folio 5b.]

[Folio 6a.]

HIC INCIPIT TABULAM DEBET VSAGEZ ET CUSTO-
MEZ DE NORHAMPTON

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- Cap^o xxx^o That non huxter not bye no maner of vitaille be forne prime Rongen at all halowen chyrche
- Cap^o xxxj^o That no man of the toun of Norhampton ne emplede othir owte of the fraunchise by no man^o purchase [Folio 8a.]

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- [Folio 8b.] Capt^o xl^o Howe the Reqrateris of threde ſhūln makeñ her marchaundiſe of threde and in which maner
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- Capt^o xliij^o Of hem that wylle ſeyne her grete ſothe in the Courte of Norhampton
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- Cap^o l^o What aman shall paie to the profite of the touñ for
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- Cap^o lj^o The peyne of deisters that euell and falsly dyen her
clothe that thei taken of othir
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- Cap^o liij^o How theise straunge wodours sholn maken her gerneris [Folio 9b.]
in the toun of Norhampton
- Cap^o liiij^o What power the chefe lorde hath of tenement that
his tenaunt holte of hym in ffee within the ffraunchise
of Norhampton
- Cap^o lv^o If aman holde atenement in c^oteyne of anothir And
the tenement be charged to anothir more souereyn
chefe And that ilke mene is holden him to aguyten
and Resseyue the syluer of his tenaunt
- Cap^o lvi^o How the attachementis of dettis sholn be done of the
straunge men in the toun of Norhampton
- Cap^o lvij^o The ffresh fors of the toun of Northampton Alls well
for pore as for Riche
- Cap^o lviii^o The p^uer men and straunge that sholn ben enfraun-
chised in the touñ of Norhampton



[U]SAGES AND THE LAWES OF THE TOWN OF NORHT [Folio 104.]
confermed bi the Charteres of diuerse kynges of Eng-

lond bi the Purchases of olde wise men of the same
John. town which theise ben her names writen here That is
to feyn. Peris Adam [and] his sone William [of] the Rows Philip
Jorda[n] [and his] sone Bartholomewe his Brother Robte harry [and]
his sone Ingram harry [and] his sone Robert of leycestr^o Robert
Gilbert [and] is sone Tyband Rog^o [and] is sone William Rey-
mond [and] his sone Adam [and] his brother Reynald [and] his
brother William of huntyngdon Gilberd Duraunte sone Wariner^o
Gobron howe the Seler^o Robert Trustone [and] his sone henry howe
[and] his sone William Gurney Edward Blounde hewe of Plompton
Adam the Spenser Richard Ernaldis sone John Neth [and] is son
Rafe Bedeny[n] [and] his sone William Gilberdis sone Joselyn the
Clerke Ernalde de la porte Water Wautisone Geffrey Waydour^o
Richard Waydour^o Ingram Wygeressone William Elwynessone Robert
Brown William Pisselewe Robert blount Maister Muchell Belaunt
Rafe de Boivyle Simon Wytor Alriche god and other²⁰³

CAPITULUM PRIMUM

[OF LANDS AND TENEMENTS BOUGHT ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOM
OF NORTHAMPTON, AND HOLDEN A YEAR AND A DAY.]

If any man resonably aftir the viages and the lawes of the tow[n]
of Northampton and bi wittnesse of the Courte of Northampton londe
te[n]t or Rente have bought and that londe te[n] & rente be in pees
with owte Challenge bi a yere and a day haue holden stedefaste shall be
holden that biyng so that the bier ne shall answere to no man of
that londe tenement or Rente for non man^oe purchaise that vppon hym
may be purchased. But if it be thus That he that by Right that the [Folio 105.]
londe tenement or Rente myght be chalenged in that yere and that day
That that londe tenemēt or rent was solde and a kate haue ben owte
of Englonde or in prison. or withinne age. And if hit so be that he
haue ben owte of the lond or be in prison. Or withinne Age. Thanne
at what tyme he cometh too that same londe tenemēt or Rente Be
the Ryght myght chalenge and in that yere and in that day. That he
be comen in to the londe Or owte of prison. And that he be of ffulle
age in pley[n] Courte comen and in that londe tenement Rente by hym

²⁰³ The additional words within brackets in this paragraph are entirely conjectural.

or by other haue sette his chalenge Saued thanne be to hym his accioñ of that londe tenement or Rente to chalenge And to recuieron with write or w'owten write And if he be right may Recoueryn And if he may not doo so that yere nor that day That he cometh in to the londe or owte of presoun or to his age by hym nor by no man ellis to make chalenge his accioñ is looste for euer That londe tenement or Rent to recuieren

CAPITULUM SECUNDUM

[OF ASKING A CATE OR PURCHASE OF LAND.]

[Folio 118a.]

Purvide hit is Allso that if any man Haue any londes tenement or Rente of his heritage or of purchace and he that londe tenement or rent nedith to sellyn his kyne Allwey shall be moſte nexte to Aske the Cate²⁰⁴ Than any man ellis or the chefe lord if ther be no man of the lynage And if the chefe lord take the Sales Be he for barred of the Cate And if it so be that londe tenement or Rent be ſolde And the Kynne or the chefe lorde yif ther be non of the blode comeñ in to the Courte with Jnne the fowre ſirite plees aftir the Sale of the londe tenement or rente in the Courte to be ſhewed and proſered to gyfe to the bier for that londe tenement or Rente Allſo mych as it hym coſte and he ſhall haue the bying of that londe tenement or Rente ſo that he make agrement of the payng of mony Aftir . viij dayes that the Cate is graunted And yif him ſeluen in the Courte be ſhewed And the Kynne nor the chefe lorde axith noȝt the Cate within ſſowre plees as it is ſeide be forne And if he faile of his Sute of that any of the fowre Courtes leſe his Accion and be for done for euer of the Cate to hauen And if the ſale be done oute of the Courte ſo that hit be not ſhewd in the courte Then it be ſaued to the Kynne or to the chefe lorde here Asking of the Cate to recoueren and to hauen Alſo ſone as this ſale is ſhewed And if the ſeller of the londe tenement or Rente to for barren the kynne or the chefe lorde of her Askynge gretter ſumie of mony haue named than he of the bier haue receyvid good leve ſhall be to the kynne That the Cate aſke or to the chefe lorde take the oñ of the ſeller As well as of the byer And if ij comenners thow thei ben no mo And that the ſeller leſſe then he Recyven nor the bier laſſe nor he gave So that all maner ffraude and Colluſion be done away Alſo ſo ſone as the kynne or the chefe lorde

²⁰⁴ A cate, or purchase, from the old French word *achate*.

In dewe maner proferith penys in pleyne Courte comyn and haue the Cate Aske thenne anon right be also well the seller as the byer somonyd to come to the nexte court ther after And yf thei come not to the Courte be thei distreyned to come to the Secounde Courte And if thei at that Courte ne comen Be the londe tenement or Rente taken into the Kyngis honde bi the Bailles at the thirde Courte And than by the siluer delyuered into the Baillyffs hondes vnder the Seall of the Asker to holden till the fourthe Courte And if the fourthe Courte the londe tenement or Rente be not replenyshed Than be the Seyfone of suche londe tenement or Rente dilyueryd to the asker by the Baylles Saued to the byer when he cometh his resonable answeys. And if it so be that he that byeth that londe tenement or Rente no maner coistages hath made in that londe tenement or rent at that the Cate of that londe tenement or rent in the courte be asked by the Kynñ or by the chefe lorde not pat he hath theron leyd Aftir that the Cate be Asked hym hit shall be Alowed

[Folio 11b.]

CAPITULUM TERTIUM

[OF THE DOWER OF WOMEN.]

Also it is purveide that if any man forpoverte or with owte poverte londe tenement or Rente wolde selleñ his sone his daughter Kynne the chefe lorde shall not in no man^{re} wise letten But if it be so that thei anon Right with Jnne . viij daies and aftir that he hauyth hem shewed that he his londe tenement or Rent wolde sellyn or at the laste withinne the terme that he to hem of his good wolde geuen wolde therof makyn his grement And if any man wylle his londe tenement or Rente taken or geuen to fynde him his sustinaunce terme of his lyfe He that is of his blode shalbe most nexte Thā altraunge Man so he woll done and fynden in the same maner as a straunge man wolle done

[Folio 12a.]

CAPITULUM QUARTUM

[OF THE KING OR CHIEF LORD MAKING AN AGREEMENT WITHIN EIGHT DAYS AFTER LANDS HAVE BEEN GRANTED.]

Pvrueid hit is also that if any man take a wife hit shall be good to dower his wyfe at his wille in A certeyne sūme of siluer And if he woll in this man^{re} that is forto seyne that of that serteyn sūme

of silu^e be endentures mad betwixte the yever and his wiffe And hat hit be Enrolled in the Comyn Roll of dywer And if he woll not dower his wiffe in a serteyn sūme of silu^e as hit is seide beforne Be she than dowed after the comen lawe of the londe And if the wyfe that is dowed of serteyn . holde the londes tenementes or Rentes Aftir the deth of her hufbonde and her grement be made of serteyn . Thanne what tyme that the heyre come and make gree with the wiffe of the certeyn Thanne be the londes tenement or rente to be heyre delyu^{ed} And if the Eyre aftir the deth of his ffadur be not of power to make grement The wiffe of hir serteyn thanne he shall comaunde that she hold londe tenement or Rent tille hir grement be made That wiffe ne shall done nor suffre to done waste nor distruxcion in the londes tenementes or rentes And if she make waste or distruxcion or suffre to be done lese for eu^{er} the londes tenementis or Rentis In which she has done or suffred to be done wait or distruxcion w'outyn any recouerer⁹ of her certyne of the londes tenementis or Rentis so waited or destrued . And that is alio well to vnderstonde what so she be dowed of serteyn somme of silu^e or by the Comen lawe of londe

[Folio 125.]

CAPITULUM QUINTO

[OF THE GRANTING OF LAND BY A MAN AND HIS WIFE
IN OPEN COURT.]

Also hit is purveide that if any man woll sellen his londe tenement or Rente by the graunte of his wyffe so that he and his wiffe comyn into pleyne Courte and the wyffe Quyte cleyme to the byer hyr Right of the dower in pleyn plees . And pray to the Courte that the courte wolde wittneffe That she hath quyte cleymed all hir Right that she may haven in the londes tenement or Rentis by ryght of dower . heritage . mariage . Or by other Right till the Ende of the worlde that thyng shall dwellyn stedfaste . So that she aftir the deth of hir hufbonde non recouerith shall haue of the londes tenement or Rente And hit is to witten That this same quyte cleyme shall be entred in the Commoun Rolle

CAPITULO VI^o

[OF A WIFE GRANTING LAND HELD BY HER OF INHERITANCE
OR GIVEN TO HER IN FREE MARRIAGE.]

Also hit is purveide that any man take a wyffe that hath londe

tenement or Rente of hyr heritage or that is 3oven with hir in franke mariage poo 3iftes Joynte to geder may thei for proverte or w'owte poverte such londe tenement or Rente sellen And stedfaſte ſhall ben that ilke ſale ſo that aftir the dethe of hir huſbonde non Recouere therof ſhall hauen. But if a man haue londe tenement or Rent of his pppe heritage or of his purchaſe That liker may ben. And that ſhe ne may haue no Recouere aftir his deth. And yiſe any woman take a huſbonde aftir dethe of her formeſt huſbonde And ſhe haue Children bi the formeſt huſbonde. The latter huſbond ne may not that fraunk mariage nor that heritage Gyffyn nor ſellyn That Siker may ben [Folio 13a.]

CAPITULUM SEPTIMO

[OF A MAN'S RIGHT TO DEVISE LAND TO THE CHILDREN
OF HIS SECOND WIFE.]

Pvrueide hit is alſo that if any man take a Wyffe and gete on hir Children and aftir the dethe of that wyffe takyth another wyffe. And of that ilke Secounde wyfe alſo geteth Children The children of the firſte wyfe whiche that thei be men children or madonys heires of the purchaſes ſhall ben. and of the heritage holden in the tyme of the firſt wyfe. And if aftir the dethe of the firſte wyfe. or bi forn the deth of firſt wyfe londe tenement or rent haue purchaſed Gode leve be to hym if he will That ilke p'chaſe 3even or by quethen to the children of p' ſecound wyfe &c

CAPITULUM VIIJ^o

[OF A MAN'S RIGHT TO BE TENANT BY COURTESY.]

Allſo it is purueide that if any man take a wyffe with free mariage and gete a Childe on hir And the Crie of the childe be herde with jnne the hows aftir the deth of the wyfe he ſhall holde that ffremariage to the terme of his lyffe But that ilke fremariage may be neu⁹ Gyffyn ſellen nor leyen to wedde but aftir the deth of the huſbond Returnen ſhall that mariage to the heires of the wiſſe Or to hym that 3aſe that free mariage. And if the wiſe dye with owten Childe Thanne ſhall that free mariage Afor the xl daies Returnen to hym That that 3aſe hit or to his nexte heires [Folio 13b.]

CAPITULUM IX^o

[OF A MAN SELLING HIS LAND TO A STRANGER AFTER OFFERING
IT TO HIS KIN AND CHIEF LORD.]

Purveide it is also that if any man for his pouerte or with owte pou^{te} his londe tenement or Rent wolde Sellen or leyen to wedde and he it haue profered to sellen or to wedde leyen to his kynne or to his chefe lorde be forn trewe men And thei haue hit forsaken well likith hym thanne to what straunge man that he will That ilke londe tenement or rente sellen or leyen to wedde . So that the kynne nor the chefe lorde neu^{er} shall hit reco^uen to haue the a kate or the leying to pe wedde So that he may shewen and averreyn by trewe men to other there that he profered the thyng to the kynne other to the chefe lorde and ther thei the thing Refused . And if it so be that the kynne or the chefe lord The londe tenement or Rente wollen haven and jeven Also much as a straunge man Thanne he by forne all other that ilke lond tenement or rente shall haven

CAPITULUM X^o

[OF A MAN'S RIGHT TO DISTRAIN FOR RENT.]

[Folio 14a.]

Also hit is provided that if any man haue Rente vppon any tenemet and that tenement be fornclosed where thorough he may not entren to distreyn for his Rente first he shall comyn in to the Courte and askyn a warde of the Courte theroffen than shall hym ben awarded that he take gode men of the Courte that thei with hym gooen to the tenement and maken the syght of the forclosyng and they shall taken and shall make the sight . And thanne shall he comen to the Secunde Courte astur and Seyen that he hath been atte the tenement so as hym was awarded with .ij. gode men if ther be no mo . whiche shullen witnesyn that thei hau made the sight . And that the tenement is fornclosed and the man^e of that forclosyng . Thanne shall ben awarded and comaunded that the Bailiff; hym shall maken entre for to distreynen for his Rente By olde entres and old goynges oute And astur that he haue entred bi the Baillifs for to distreynen for his Rente . He shall distreynen by all that he may fynden bi dorres and by wyndowes and all other maner thyng^e not faste in the erthe And whan he hath so distreyned that he ne fynde no more to distreyne and that the tenaunt ne make not his peas Thanne shall he comen to a nother

Courte and shewen That he ne fynde no more to distreyn And aike aftir warde another a warde And thanne shall hym ben awarded that he take good men with hym and that they goon to the tenement for to seen if they synden more to distreyn or non And he and they shullen goone And thanne come into the Courte with those goode men That have the sighte made And if thei witneffen that ther is no more to distreynen Thanne shall hym ben Awarded that he take the tenement in to his honde for defaute of s²uice And hangen on a gayne the dorres and the wyndowes. And that he holde hit in his honde a yere and a day And if the tenaunt come not with Junne a yere and a day to maken his grement Aftir that yere and that day shall he comen to the Courte and showen that he hath holden that tenement with Rente in his honde a yere and a day And that his pees is not made of that Rente. Thanne hym shall ben awarded that he may the tenement don to hyren and amendyn his Rente for to saven So that he ley tymber of oke ne asfh ne ffreston to diheritosoun of his tenaunt. And if he ley on tymber of Oke hit shall ben a covnted for beche And ffreston for melyn. And his tenaunt or the next heire come come ther aftir warde and wolde a Counten to hym. And wille his a grement Seken and zelden hym his arrurages And he wolde not Refceyven hem Thanne shall comen the tenaunt or the next heire to the Courte and shewen how he hath ben at his chefe lorde and hym a bode to a counte to hym and hem proferid to zelden hym his arrurages and the Reisonable Coftages that he hath ther leide owte take tymber of Oke and freston And that ne will not Refceyven. Than shall ben the heued so monned to comen to the next Courte aftir that he shall be comaunded be the Courte that he acounte to his tenaunte. And that he take his Arrurages And if he will not don soo. Thanne shall he goon owte ther offen bi awarde so as he entred bi awarde.

[Folio 14b.]

[Folio 15a.]

CAPITULUM XI^o

[OF A MAN'S RIGHT TO SELL LAND PURCHASED BY HIM.]

Pvrveide it is also that if any man haue londe tenement or Rente of his owen heritage and other londe tenement or rente of his purchase. Good leve be to hym to Gyffen his purchase or to sellen to whom hym likes All though his heir wolde hym with sayne

CAPITULUM XI^o

[OF A MAN DWELLING BY THE FRANCHISE OF THE TOWN.]

Graunted hit is also that if any man haue dwelled with owten chalenge of his lorde in the town of Norhampton A yere and a day And he be fyre howse holdyng at loot and Scotte he thall dwelle ffree ther by the fraunchise of the towne

CAPITULUM XII^o

[OF A MAN'S RIGHT TO GIVE HIS LAND TO HIS DAUGHTERS.]

Allso hit is purveide that if A man haue londes teñtis or Rentes of his heritage or of his purchafe and he have a doughter or tweyne or moo . Good leve be to him to seven to his þ douster a ptie of his londis tenementꝝ or Rentis in free mariage and the lorde of the fee hym ne thall not moun letten nor with feyn hit So that his s'uice be saved nor his sone nor the kynne hym ne may letten that ought hym may grevene

[Folio 15b.]

CAPITULUM XIII^o

[OF A MAN'S RIGHT TO LET HIS LAND FOR A TERM.]

Also it is purveide if that any man ne may not his londe tenement or rente leyen other to wedde ne take to terme ne longe terme ne shorte but if so bee that he that leyth hit to wedde . And he that thall have hit comen into pleen pleeꝝ . And sweren that he done hit not to the deceyte of the Right of the kynne or of the chefe lorde . And if hit so be that the Awarde ther of ne ben not ashed in pleyne Courte with Janne the first fowre ples aftir the thyng be leide to wedde or too terme be leued and in pleyne Courte shewed .

CAPITULUM XV^o

[OF A MAN'S OMISSION TO DISTRAIN FOR RENT FOR A YEAR AND A DAY.]

Pvrveide hit is allso that if no man that may his fee distreynen for his Rente that he is by hynde of whiche tenement is waste or herberged . and he for the dihherytyng of his tenaunt suffr the Rente passen ovyr a yere and a daye or two

yere or thre or moo That he it asketh not lese he the s^uyre of all thoo yerys owte take the laste yere In which yere he hath made the distresse for his Rent But if it so be that he be forne haue monysshed his tenaunt to yelden to him hys Rente And that his tenaunt therof toke day of hym. and bi wittnesse of gode men [Folio 16a.]

CAPITULUM XV^o

[OF RELIEF FROM THE CHIEF LORD AFTER THE DEATH OF THE TENANT.]

Also purveide hit is that if any man holde lont teñt or rente of other bi a litell seruise of Siluer s^uteyn named or bi graunte after the dethe of the tenaunt Relief theroffen shall be yeven and sellynges. if the tenaunte selle the tenement if the chiefe lorde will not haue the a kate And if any tenaunte holde nio teñt of only the chiefe lorde he shall haue but on Relief for all tho tenementis. But if every tenaunt solde diuerse sellynges.

CAPITULUM XVI^o

[AS TO CONTROVERSY BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS.]

Purveid hit is also that if contraverfy or bebate be twixxe Neyghbores of wall tymbryng. hegge. goter welle Swelewe or of other thynges like. and the shewyng ther of be done in pleyne courte A warded shall be that a good man of the Courte and of that Veyne goyng to the tenement and seen that ilke debate and that same Nysaunce and hym that they seyen Thenne for Right for that on partie or that other w^oowten more delay be it ferme & stable.

CAPITULUM XVII^o

[AS TO THE SALE OF WOOL, THREAD, HIDES, TALLOW, HONEY, CHEESE, OR FLESH.]

Also purveide hit is that if any straunge man that ledeth wolle in to the town of Norhampton may not sellen his wolle deptyn but all hole to geder And that no straunge may byen wolle in the town of Norhampton but if it be in tyme of the feyre or of good men of the same towñ. And that no straunger may byen threde in Norhampton for to leden hit owte of the town but in [Folio 16b.]

tyme of a feire No straunger ne may byen fressh hydes or peltes in Norhampton but in tyme of ffeyre. And that no marchaunde of this shire ne non other straunger of other Shires that comyth in to Norhampton with wolle. hides. Talowe. hony. or chese or ffleshe shall no where leyn down but in the Kynges shoppe. And ther to be purveid a Comun Shoppe

CAPITULUM XIX^o

[OF SERVANTS WHO WILFULLY LEAVE THEIR MASTERS.]

Pvrveide hit is allso that if any man haue noryshed Tapefter or feraunte. And they of wikked will hem with drawen or voyden her servise. And pleynt be made ther of the Bailliff; shullen Attachen the worde and the pyes ther as they may be founden and from houre to houre bi the speche folowed till the Right be done theroffe

CAPITULUM XX^o

[OF MERCHANTS WHO PASS NORTHAMPTON, PAYING CUSTOM.]

Also hit is ordeyned that no marchaunde that custome shall payen may be Ryght passen the town or Norht with owten jendyng of Custome. And allso hit be hoveth that they Gevyn custome in the stedes writen here Aftir That is to seyn oute of Norhampton at Byllyng brygge and at Sereham Crosse and at Slapton²⁰⁶ for whi theise Customes harren longyng to the fraunchise of Norhampton

[Folio 17a.]

CAPITULUM XX^o

[OF CERTAIN THINGS THAT CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR DISTRESS.]

Ordeyned hit is allso that no man of Norhampton take in the same toun for distresse cowe. lyter. Brede ffressh fflesh myll horie ffressh hydes nor horse that ledeth water in the toun that men callith Bulhes But if hit be for dette of hym that oweth the thynges be fore named or but if hit be on principall dette for an other or for the kynges dette

²⁰⁶ Billing Bridge is one of the old bridges over the Nene, about four miles east of Northampton. Syresham is a village near Brackley; there are now no remains of the Market Cross. Slapton is a small village near Towcester.

CAPITULUM XXI^o[OF A MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE TO ATTEND THE MAYOR'S
SUMMONS.]

Allso hit is proued that if any man be Resonably lyke J Sommoned to come be fore the maire at his commaundemet by the Clerke or by the Seriaunt and he with Sitte the somouns And that he come not be he Amercied at ijs with owten reles And but if hit be soo that he that is somoned haue for hym a Resonable excusacioñ And hit is to vndirstonden that a ryche man be am^cied at ijs amene man at xijd apore man at vjd. And theise am^cciamentis be thei turned into the profite of the Coñoun

CAPITULUM XXII^o

[OF TWO MEN HOLDING ONE STALL.]

Allso hit is puruide that if two men or thre holden a stalle in the town of Norhampton That on of hem shall be quyte of the stallage And the other shallen payen And that is to vndurstonden of stalles that ben sette in chepyng [Folio 17b.]

CAPITULUM XXIII^o

[AS TO THE SALE OF HORSES, NEAT KINE, SWINE AND SHEEP.]

Pvrveid hit is allso that of all maner bestes That is to Seyen horie Nett kyne swyne shepe and all other bestes that arne solde in the Chepyng of Norhampton all though that ther ben atte m^ochaundiye .ij. men or iij or mo to the Bargaynyng nor bye yet be Geven but be lotte be twyxe the Bargaynours of that marchaundiye and throwen vpp whom the loott shallith to hym falle the marchaundiye. And if it so be wyunnyng be zoven he that hath hit zoven And ther of be ouertaken be he in the mercy of the town of xijd with owten Reles. And this is allso well to vndirstonden of Baxsters that byen Corne and hem that byen peien And of Bochers and of other that byen suche maner marchaundiye be fore naimed

CAPITULUM XXV^o

[AS TO THE SALE OF FISH AND SALT.]

Allso purueid hit is that no ffysher nor oþer man that ffishe sellith ne bye ffyshe of no man that ffishe bryngeth into town

[Folio 18a.]

to sellen of Norhampton tille that he that the ffylthe bryngeth into town holding his chepyng fully the ffirſt day that he cometh into towñ Nor no marchaunde of the town not goo owte of the toun nygh nor ffer by xxiiij^m myles from Norhampton for to byen ffylth or salt for to derthen the town. And if any ther with be outhaken be amerced to the touñ at ijs. And if he ſo doo thryes and ther of be outhaken ffor ſwere he the Craft a yere & a day

CAPITULUM XXVJ^o

[OF BADGERS, OR VENDORS OF BREAD AND CORN, SELLING
IN ONE PLACE.]

Pvrveide hit is allſo that the Baxiters ſitten in a ſteyn ſtede to gedyr and on on Rewe and allſo do they of Eckton²⁰⁶ and alle other ſtraunge Baxiters And all the Reqrateres of brede and of Corn done they allſo And that thei leyn in howſe no brede. Corne nor malte for to derthe the chepyng nor the touñ All pough they may not sellen at her wille to the harme of the touñ And of men of the contre that byen her brede and hir corne And thoo that ſuche thyngis hauen Reſleyted and of theym that ben outhaken be they am^oced to the touñ of xij^d with oute releſe if thei many tymes be outhaken ther of be þey more greuouſly amerced

CAPITULUM XXVIJ^o

[OF VENDORS OF HAY AND STRAW.]

[Folio 18b.]

Allſo hit is purveide that no man that bereth burthens of hey or of ſtraws peſe ſtrawe or bene ſtrawe into towne ne come hit nouyt doñ on the erthe from his hedde tyll they haue ſold hit And if thei done leſe they the burthene &c

CAPITULUM XXVIIJ^o

[OF VENDORS OF TIMBER.]

Pvrveide hit is allſo that no man that bryngeth in to the touñ tymber wode ſtokkes grete tymber or alſe ne come hit not down to the kynges grounde. ffor to latten hit lyen ther

²⁰⁶ Ecton is a small village lying about five miles north-east of Northampton.

tille haue solde hit All though he may not selle hit . And who so dothe hit lese he the tymber . wode or stokke to the profite of the Bailiffs

CAPITULUM XXIX^o

[OF THOSE THAT BUY HIDES ANYWHERE BUT IN THE MARKET.]

Allso purueide hit is that no man of Norhampton Marchaunde ne other goo owte of the towñ of Norhampton . at non of the yates nyse or ferre with Jnne the fraunchise for to meten the men of the Countre That bryngen ffelles or wolles to sellen ffor to byen ffelles or wolles of hem in none other stede But in the kynges merkett of Norhampton ther too sertenly assigned . And And who ther of be outaken that he goo with owte the yates or in howse or in hydirmuke for felles or wolles elles where to byen But in the kynges Chepyng Os hit is seide be he in the mercy to the town of ijs with owte reles &c

CAPITULUM XXX^o

[OF THOSE THAT BUY FOOD ANYWHERE BUT IN THE
MARKET, ALSO OF REGRATERS.]

Pvruede Hit is allso that no Huxiter . Man nor Woman of [Folio 19a.] Norhampton ne gon owte of the touñ at non of the yates ne in no strete ne in howse ne in other hydynges But in the kynges Chepyng ther to Assigned for to hyen no man^e of vitaille That is for to seyne flysle nor hennes nor kokkes nor chese Eyren nor none other vitaille nor wode nor Cole for to derthen the vitaille . And no man ne bye suche thyng . be forn the prime be Rungen at all Holowen Chirche . And that the Regraters byen alway tho forseide thyng in a s^{te}eyne stede of Chepyng ther to assigned . And who so be founde that dothe agayne this purviaunce lese he the Catell that in that man^e hem hath bought And yite neuthelise he shall ben am^ocied at vj^d to the Bayllyffes . And if any Regrater man or woman any of the thynges be fore named be fore the houre of pryme hadde bought . And seyen that the thinge they haue bought to the profite of Sum burges of the touñ Afferme thei thanne or sweren on the halydome that the thynges to the plyte of the burges bousten . And if they thanne by the Burges ben a warded be they quyte . And if thei ther of be outaken And by the burgeys disauowed be

they thanne first am^ocied at vjd and astir at xijd. and if they thrise of that fravde ben outaken for swere they the crafte a yere and a daye

CAPITULUM XXXJ^o

[Folio 19b.]

XXXJ^o[OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF AGENTS FOR THE PURCHASE
OF GOODS.]

Allso hit is pruiet that no Man nor Woman that ben of the fraunchise of Norhampton ne enplede othir that ben of the same fraunchise owte of Nohampton bi no man^e purchas Tille he that wille pleyne hym have the Right astir the viages of the Toun and the Courte of Norhampton may hauen And any dothe the contrary and ther of ben outaken Be he greuouly Am^ocied. And if it so be that he that pleyneth havith Right astir the viages of the toun in the Courte of Norhampton nor then may not haue hit. Seke thanne his purchas ther as he wenyth most soneft Remedie to haue. And wouten chalenge of hem of the Courte Astirwarde

CAPITULUM XXXIJ^o

[OF CHILDREN OF MEN THAT ARE PUT IN PRISON.]

Purueide hit is allso that the Children of good men of Norht that shall be put in dufeyne shallen yeven ob and the fraunge shall geven to the Baillifs iiij^d and to the clerke .j^d and well they hem kepen the Baillifs vp grevous am^ocymet. And that thei ne entereñ no fraunge man in Rolle of dufeyn but thei haue othe And sikernesse of hym of trewth and that he be of ffree condicioñ And that he be p^resented to the chefe Dufeyner

CAPITULUM XXXIIJ^o

[OF BUTCHERS HAVING WEIGHTS.]

[Folio 20a.]

Allso purveide hit is that no Bocher nor non other haue tronage but onlye the Baillyfz and that the troner Haue a balaunce hit to weyē and the baillyfz of the thyngē troned .ij^d. And if any man selle by a ston or ellis of the tronage Astir the qu^otite of the weyght. and if any man haue with holden is tronage and ther of ben outaken .jeue to the bailliffs .vj^d for his conseyleng

CAPITULUM XXXIII^o

[OF THE TAKING OF HIDES OUT OF THE TOWN.]

Purveid hit is also that no bocher nor other ne lede ffreth hides oute of Norht to no Chepyng to sellen But if it be to ffeires And if any ther of be outaken That hit doth he be in the m^ocy of the Baillifs of ijs

CAPITULUM XXXV^o

[OF KEEPING WATCH IN THE TOWN.]

Allso purveide it is that if any man be sommoned to waken in the town that nede ben he shall sende no man to take wache for hym But yf he be manne conuenable and defensable And that wacche be made from house to house so os it cometh a bouzte And that none be Relesed nor for born but if it be a warkeman that lyveth vppon his owne hondes. And jit not but if ther be s^oiaunt that he be sommoned by wittnesse and he ne come not be he in the mercy of the Baillyffs of .vj^o

CAPITULUM XXXVJ^o

[OF HIRING SHOPS AT FAIRS.]

Purveide hit is also that no man of Norhampton goo to no feire be forne othir for to hyren shoppes for derthyng the shoppes when they comen. And who so dothe the contrary and ther of be outaken shall ben in the mercy of the toun of halfe a marke And jit neðtheless shall make grement to hym that hath the harme by way of his gooyng

[Folio 20b.]

CAPITULUM XXXVIJ^o

[CONCERNING LOANS.]

Allso prouyded it is that no marchaunde of Norhampton here by forwarde make lone to no knyghte ne to non other but if so be that he that wolde the thyng borowen be in dette to non other of the toun And in this man^ore That he to whom he owepe the dette come to hym that wolde the thyng borowen is in his dette And if any hit doo be in the mercy at .xli. too the toun and in this man^oe That he that the dette his owed too may averreyn bi wittnesse that he hath his neyghbur in this maner warned

CAPITULUM XXXVIII^o

[OF THE HIRING OF SERVANTS.]

Pvrued hit is also that no man of Norht not Receyve any others mannys seruaunt into his house nor with hym make comenaunt for to dwelle but if it so be that he witte howe and in what man^{er} he be departed from his maistr^{ie} that he served and that he be departed in good maner And if any do p^{er} cotry & therof be outaken be he in the mercy of the bayllyffs of ijs

CAPITULUM XXXIX^o

[OF PERSONS MAKING COVENANTS.]

[Folio 218.] Also it is purveide and defendid that no coueyne her by forwarde ne be made wher thorough the Comū and the baillif-thep leten hir Ryght And if any ther of be outaken be he in the mercy to the touñ And to the baillys of xls

CAPITULUM XL^o

[CONCERNING REGRATERS.]

Pvruede hit is allso that no Regrater of threde no day be fore the houre of p^{ri}me And that he ne bye nougt no daye but only by the pounce at the moite And that they that byen that that threde that they done hit to worken and sen that the threde be gode and counenable And tho that byen threde for to selleñ that they hit sellen no where but in Chepyng. That in houses nor in shoppes And if any of that be outaken that other dothe be in the m^{er}cy of the Baillifs of vj^d And if any Regrater byen other wise but the pounce of threde any daye before the houre of prime and ther of be outaken lese he the Catell. And if any byer be hit man or be hit woman That ledith the seller to his house and him makyth not his full payment for the threde that hath bought and that anon and the pleynt be made to the baillifs The baillifs anon pay to the seller vp to the byers purs fulliche his payment And then Rere the bailliffs the thyngt of the Catell of the byer and the byer be in the mercye of the Bailliffs of xij^d.

CAPITULUM XLJ^o

[OF PURCHASING GOODS.]

[Folio 219.] Allso hit is purueide that if any man or woman ley his peny vppon any marchandyse tille that the Seller hym hath Graunted

the Marchaundise lefeth a peny to the profite of the Baillifs And gode leue be to the other That wolle that marchaundize Astir byen. And if any marchaund bye be lasse money than by a ferthyng hole. But yf it be peltis to pchemyā be in þ^e m^ocy to þe baillifs of vj

CAPITULUM XLII^o

[OF PLEADING IN COURT.]

Purueide hit is also that here by forthwarde ne by myskennyng in the Courte pledyng but euery Ryche and pore tell his grete sotheneſſe with owteñ vnderuemyng

CAPITULUM XLIII^o

[CONCERNING WORKERS IN CLOTH.]

Allſo hit is awarded that no maker of cloth ne put in his cloth thing that is called impiall tyngtuſ or worme ne of white Rayes dyzyng of barke ne non other fallſe dyze And if any ther of be outaken leſe he the clothe or be in the mercy of the touñ of j marke And that no cloth ne threde be dyzed of erthe but onlyche the threde that he putteth in the clothe impiall And if any other clothe be founden dyzed of erthe and that clothe be the deiters and hit be by the counceill And the aſſente of him that hit owith Be allſo that clothe loſte to the town And if it be not the wille ne of the ſente of hym that the clothe owith The deister for ſwere he the Craſte A yere and a day And that no deister maiſtre no clothe w^h hym And if anny ther of be outaken fore ſwere he the Craſte A yere and a daye and no man make clothe but if the clothe be of Reſonable ſeute that is for to ſeyne that the pure elne ne faile laſſe than a peny at the moſte Than the beſte elne and in the very impiall . i oð and if any ther of be outaken be he am^ocyed to the [town] of vs. and if he be thryes outaken forſwere he the Craſte A jere and a day

[Folio 22a.]

CAPITULUM XLIII^o

[CONCERNING NUISANCES.]

Purueide hit is allſo that no deister nor bocher nor other man ne woman not caſte out at his dore into the kynges wey Grutte or dyng of wod ne carione nor non other man^oe ſtynkkyng thyng ne boyltur of wode and if any hit do be in the m^ocy to the Baillifs of xij^a

CAPITULUM XLV^o

[CONCERNING BUTCHERS.]

Allso hit is purueide that no bocher from hense forwarde not haunte the office of the bocherye as a maister tille he have zeuen to the toun iij. viij^a os they in olde tyme were wonte to zeuen. And who the laiffe dothe to the toun his Right thanne the marchaundiȝe longeth. for the fraunchise of the toun to haue after comune Right of the towñ

CAPITULUM XLV^o

[ALSO CONCERNING BUTCHERS.]

Purueid hit is also that no bocher ne byen no porke but if he haue warantise of þe seller of clenness of porke An if he ne doo nott falle the harme vppon the bocher with owten anny Recoueryng of the seller

CAPITULUM XLVI^o

[OF BUTCHERS SELLING UNWHOLESOME MEAT.]

Allso hit is purueide that no bocher nor other sellen Sustemy
[Pollo 22b.] flesh fresh ne flesh of a dede gote ne calidious of a shepe nor Nete nor hedys of Calueren nor of Nete nor suche man^{re} of fowle thyng But vnder the pillorie and if the thyng be J founden in other stedis for to sellen Be thei losse to the bailliffs profite and the suymy be zeuen to seke men of Seynt Leonardis²⁰⁷

CAPITULUM XLVII^o

[OF VENDORS OF WOOD.]

Purueide it is also that euery straunge woders zeue of euery quarter of wode that he selith vj^a. to the toun. And if the oost of the woder herburgh the woder. with owten leue of the bailliffs And that woder that selith ne paye that hym oweth to paye of right And if the oost late hym passe with owten paying The hoie shall paye the vj^a and shall ben Amercyed

CAPITULUM XLIX^o

[CONCERNING CHAPMEN.]

Allso it is purueide that euery Chapman or marchaund of the towñ of Northampton that marchaundeth with the penyes of straunge men zeue at euery hundred of felles that he byeth. iij^a.

²⁰⁷ Saint Leonard's Hospital for lepers, situate near the south bridge, at Northampton.

And of euy sake of wolle .vj^s. to the pfyte of the town and to the Bailliffs custome for a straunge man And that that falleth to the tronage

CAPITULUM LI^o

[Folio 23a.]

[TAX ON BUYING LAND.]

Pvrueide hit is Also that all tho that byen londe tenemete or Rentis in Norhampton shulle zeuen at euy xx^s that the payment .ij^s. to the profyte of the town

CAPITULUM LIJ^o

[CONCERNING DYERS.]

Allso hit is ordeyned and purueid that if any deyfter dyze the clothe of any man wikkedeliche and therof be ouertaken lese his travell And be in the m^ocye of the Baillifes of xij^s for the treispace &c

CAPITULUM LIJ^o

[CONCERNING CLOTH WORKERS.]

Awarded it is allso that werkers of clothes that Arnn clepid websters here biforewarde ne stente not vppon hir hustis to wewen her clothes owen nor other And if any and therof be taken .ffyrte he zeue to the town ij^s And if he be another tyme outake . he shall zeue to the town halfe j marke . And if he another tyme be outaken lese he the clothe to the profit of the town And that euy wyte clothe by here byforward of .xxxiiij porters And the clothe impiall of xxvj . and of xxvij and the white Ray be hit of the same lenght . And if any man will marchaundizen of penyes of the same lumbard or of peyns of straunge men . ffyrte it was ordeyned that he shulde zeuen of euy cloth to the town .vj^s And aftir it was ordeyned .ij^s and of owene clothus to the town of euy colour atte clothe a peynye . And who it halpe or confeyleple zeue to pe town ij^s with Reles

CAPITULUM LIJ^o

[Folio 23b.]

[CONCERNING VENDORS OF WOOD.]

Awarded it is also that no woder that bryngeth wode in to Norhampton ne make no g^oneryng therof But if it be in piaunce of fowre gode men and tho Sworen ther too ne no gaderyng leide

to ne put to that wode but in the p^{re}sent of the foure Sworn
 And that no woder not sellen of his wode tille the saye therof
 beforne be made by thre assigned therto and Sworn and no woder
 ne shall his wode sellen to no itraunge man And if any itraunge
 man thereof be ouer taken lese he the marchaundi^{er}. And if the
 woder ther of be outaken be in the m^oye to the toun of .xl^o. And
 that no woder sellen his wode but by assayd that with Jnne the
 .xxx. dayes that he shall come and ass^u voyde the touñ and if he
 wille his wode sellen all holl to men of the town goode leue be hit
 and if any itraunge woders make garner with stede abowte enuiron
 in the byenge of xxiiij myle abowte Norhamptoñ. for to fle the
 assaye And no man of the toun ne wend owte of the toun to
 marchaunden And if any deister or assayour be yiste or by heste
 or by other queyntise make ther wode of gretter price than hit is
 worthi and therof ben outaken for he swere he crafte a yere and
 adaye

CAPITULUM LIII^o

[CONCERNING DISTRESS MADE BY ONE POSSESSING ONLY
 A LIMITED ESTATE IN LAND.]

[Folio 242a.] Awarded it is also that if any man be fessed of londs tenement
 or Rente and he tho thynges to hym fessed wolde wasten or
 ditruen and the chefe Lorde of whom he holdith offe therof be
 apceyned and cometh to the bailliffs and make to hym the shewyng
 that his tenaunt wyll ditruen and wasten his tenement in lesyng
 of his rente. The Bailliffs a non right shall gon to the tenement
 and so thei fynden be it tymber or other thynges tymberd they
 shall done attachen and if owte be by hynden to the chefe lorde
 of the fee of his Annuell Rente or of other fuyces to hym Skyl-
 fully owed and bi wittnesse p^{ro}ued than shullen the Bailliffs
 delyueren the attachment founden in that fee to the cheffe lorde
 in name of distresse and if any man haue ouzte bouzte of the
 tenement or owte boron away the bailliffs shullen don it attachen
 in whos hande the thyng^e may be founde tille the nexte p^{re}es And
 than bi trewe Juggement shall be iugged and awarded if that
 thyng that is in that man^{er}e bouzte or borñ a wey shall dwellen to
 hym that so hath bouzte hit or hit borñ away or if the thyng
 shall be to hym lorñ And if the sale be right be forñ don be
 than also the seller as the byer grenoflyche Am^ocied And if the

tenaunte make grement to the lorde of the Arrurages and hym fynde sufficiant sikernesse to tymbren it vp agayne and to make him his tenement ageyn for to saue his rente by thanne that ilke attachment bi that sikernesse to the tenement delyued

CAPITULUM LV^m

[OF A MAN WHO HOLDS OF HIS LORD BY SERVICE, AND IS
DISTURBED BY THE HIGHER CHIEF LORD.]

Awarded Hit is also that if any man holde tenement or teñ of his chefe lorde by a due seruyce and bi a seruyce named and that ilke teneant his due s^uyse to his Chese lorde hath paid and other more eyf that tenement haue distreyned and seruyse haue asked ther of And the tenaunte by destresse to the plees hath comen and shewed that he his s^uyce haue zelden to his chefe lord that mene is bi twyxen hem and the mo^r eyf chefe lorde distreynynge and that ilke mene ne haue not hym ther of quyte and asketh ther of a warde and the Courte thanne bi counsell of the Courte shall ben awarded that the teneant wende to the chefe lorde mene and he his due hath jelde and taken with hym good men and trewe and him p^rie comaundyng that he hym .a quyte a geys the ey chefe lorde that him hath distreyned and greued by his defeaute And if he that ilke mene ne him aquyte nouzt as is be forn seide gode men bi suche he hath don that comaundyng and if the thyng be wittnesse seid bi tho gode men that he hath so don as it is seide thanne be askyng helpe of the Courte that shall hym ben warded that he shall pursue his fee ageyns the soueyn chefe lorde that hym hath distreyned and that not paied to his chefe lorde mene till that ilke chefe lorde mene oute of the harme of that other haue delyued and fully aquyted

[Folio 24b.]

CAPITULUM LV^j^o

[CONCERNING DEBTORS AND CREDITORS.]

Purveide it is also that if any man of Norht his godis and his Catellis to any man of the Courte knyght or p^{er}son or other till a s^uteyne day or tyme haue lent or borrowed and the dettur the grement to his creaunso^r at the s^utayne daie sette ne to forne ne haue not made & aftir the t^ume cometh into the touñ of Norhampton with hors or with other Catell and the creaunfour cometh to the bailliffs and maketh a pleynt of his dett^r that wrongfulliche

[Folio 25a.]

he with holdeth hym his dette gode leve be to the bailliffs and horse & the Catelles of the dett^r founden in the power of his oste ther as he was herborowed defenden and if the hofte the horse ne the catell of the dett^r ne will not vndertakyn for to save Thanne the bailliffs shall of hf his power the katells with hym lede and do hem saueliche kepen till hit so be that be don to the parties And if the Oste or Ostasse or hir s^rteyne Attorney will vndir taken and with holden and to saven the Catelles of the dett^r and the Catteltes beyng in her warde and the dett^r ther astir warde him depart owte of the touñ with owte lefe of the bailliffs and with owte makyng greemēt to the Creaunfour of the dette The Oste or the Ostasse hem they zeldon fulliche to make the paiement of the dette to the Creaunso^r Astir that the Creaunso^r Resonablych shewen and pven may whiche done he shall And if a knyght passe bi the touñ of Norht and owe dette to any man of the touñ and no dwellyng maketh in the towñ gode leve be hit to the Bailliffs bi the swte of the Creaunso^r and by his pleynte the harneys of the knyght to Attacheñ and hit with holden till Right be don to the pties but his Palfrey that he Rydith on he may not attachen. And if the Bailliffs tachen the Catelles of any man for dette that he oweth and astir that he hath him Attached lat the attachment and the dett^r departe with owten gre doyng or paying to the creaunfour And that by yfte that the bailife hath taken of the dett^r. And that this thyng be outaken the Bailliffs be holden hollyche to make the paying and the greying to the creaunfour for the fravde that he hath don and that with owte delaye

[Folio 25b.]

CAPITULUM LVII^o

[CONCERNING THE OUSTING OF A MAN FROM HIS FREEHOLD
BY INTRUSION OR ABATEMENT.]

Also it is purveide that no man entre in to any tenement be intirision or bi abatement an hu and crie therof come to the bailliffs the bailif with oute more delay shall go to the tenement and don of the tirenynge and take the tenement in to the kynges hond till the next plees with hyr tytulys of Ryght if thei haue titules. And thanne in pleyñ plees shall ben asked bi the Courte to the pties that thei shewen what thei hauen of Ryght for hym.

And he that moſte ſufficient titule haue for hym ſhall be putte in his Seelyng. And if that other partie will purſewe. After he hym p'chas þe beſte wyſe he cane

CAPITULUM LVIIJ^o

[AS TO A MAN WHO IS BORN IN THE TOWN ENTERING HIS NAME ON THE TOWN REGISTER AND PAYING HIS FEES.]

Syn hit contened is in viages of the touñ of Norht of Olde tyme vſed that all the Children of burgeis of the ſame toun ſholde payen to the vſe of the ſame Touñ for to Rejoise the frauncheiſe. v^s. iiij^d. And in a batyng of the forfeid payment. John Longwile Meire of Norht²⁰⁸ by the aſſent of Pheliſſe Eward William Biſte Gefferey Herleſton Coroners of the ſame Towne Adam Cotebrooke William Elys Thomas Staunford Wouter of Patteshull William Eward Adamffyt Adam Earlemonger Henry Roger John of Stratton Waut⁹ Cay Gylbert baker & William Sotell to gedur with all the comunalte of the forfeide town Ara aſſentid in the chyrche of Seynte Gyle of Norht the Sonenday next Affore the feſte of Seint Denys. [7th October, 1341] In the yere of the Reigne of King Edward the thyrde after the conqueſt the xv. yere. That euery maner man that is borne in the foreſeyde town And his fadir hath ben At lotte and Scotte and in comū charge of the forfeide town. Allſo ſone as that he wille marchaundize come before the meire and Coroners in the pleyne plees of the forfeide town and make his othe in this maner that he ſhalbe feithfull and lawfull to oure lorde the Kyng and to his heyres & Juſtifiable to meyre and Bailliff; and the fredomes and the viages of the forfeide town to his power mayntene. as moſte playnly hit ſhalbe ſchewed hym at the making of his othe And that he paye the fees to the Clerke and Seriaunte of olde tyme vſed that is to witte. iiij^d to the Clerke and. ij^d to the S^ogeaunte and be his name entered in the Regestre withowten other grement makyng to the meyre or to the town from hennes forwarde And alſo that yif any of the condycion beforneſeide or any other marchaundize beforne that he make his othe beforneſeide leſe he the marchaundis to the

[Folio 262a.]

[Folio 262b.]

NOTA

²⁰⁸ John Longvile was mayor of the town, prior to 1377, at which time the present list in the Town Hall commences.

pfite of the town And also the meyre and comynalte ben Assented That if any man of the fraunchise of the forfeide town Enplede anothyr in the Courte of Norhampton be the defendaunt of the fraunchise or non in plee of dette of xij^d or of leise that he that is empled may done his lawe be his owne honde. So that he that shall done his lawe bee of good fame And also the same vsages be holden in plee of disfonement so that the pleyntif be of the fraunchise be the defendant Denzeyn or foreyne. And also the forfeide meire & comunalte ben Assentid that in plee of dette or of trespas that towcheth disfonement that the pleyntyff Aftyr the lawe waged haue but oon esoyne. And in affermyng of theise poyntes Aboue seide. The comoun seall of the town of Norht is putte for to lasten att all dayes

ORDINAC^o FACT^o TEMPE
WILLI RUSSHEDEN³⁰⁹
SEN DE CARPENTAR
CAPITULUM LIX^o

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME
OF WILLIAM RUSSHEDEN SEN^a
CONCERNING CARPENTERS
CHAPTER LIX

[A]^D pfectum acetiam & opportunitatem Carpentarioꝝ infra villam Norht vñtat^o & deinceps excercend p voluntatem & cōem Assensum dēe Artis artiffem infra villam p̄dict^o comoraur assiduo & eoꝝ p̄catu Ita ordinat^o est p discretionem maioris & contilij sui modo quo subiequit^r. In p̄mis qd int^o Artifices p̄dicos constituent^r duo sup̄visores dēe Artis de discretioribꝫ viris & magis idoneis ad sup̄sēnd & sup̄vidend. certos vsus & consuetudines dēe Artis similt^o & in defectibꝫ in Arte p̄dict^o inuestigand & in eiſdem corrigend seu maiori & suo cons̄ fidelit^o intimand scdm dēe Artis assiduam facultatem p scrutari dēi sup̄visores fidelit^o non deficiāt. Similiter vñ p̄dēi sup̄visores & eoꝝ successores comparere studeant semel in Anno ad tempus cōsuetū int^o eoiſdem

For the progress as well as [Folio 27a.]
for the convenience of the regular carpenters within the town of Northampton and of those hereafter to be employed by the wish and common assent of the craftsmen of the said craft constantly dwelling within the aforesaid town and at their petition It is thus ordained by the discretion of the mayor and his council in manner following First that among the aforesaid craftsmen there be appointed two supervisors of the said craft of the more discreet men and more fit for the superintending and supervising the fixed usages and customs of the said craft and likewise for the investigating the shortcomings in the aforesaid craft and in making correction in the same or for giving faithful intimation to the mayor and his council and the said supervisors fail not to make diligent enquiry as to the continual practice of the said craft Likewise that the said supervisors and their successors be zealous to appear once in the year at the customary time appointed among

³⁰⁹ William Rushden was mayor of the town in 1430-1; and William Russhedien in 1439-40.

hit⁹ vt scilt citra festum Corporis
Xpi in Gilda Aula ville Nor-
hampton coram maiore & suo
con^s p tempe exiltentibz tunc
Ad onus itm sup omnes Car-
pentarios infra libtatem ville
Norhampton comorant⁹ fide me-
dia²¹⁰ iure Rite suscipiende &
fidelit⁹ vtz ad Anni illius plen-
ariam reuolucōem parit⁹ obseruan-
dam. Completo v^{ro} illo Anno
ac p eodē supvisores omnibz
& singul⁹ ex officio content⁹ formalit⁹
pactis p cōm assensum elig⁹e
debent de Artificibz p^{re}dis & alios
duos dēe Artis viros simili
modo & tempe int⁹ eodē
consuet⁹ Ad disponende in arte
p^{re}dca p coi vtilitate veresimilit⁹.
P^{re}tea & ordinat⁹ est in⁹t ipos
Artifices qd supvisores sic int⁹ ipos
constituti Recipiant de singulis
dēe Artis magistris infra libtatem
ville Norhampton opante semel
in Anno quatuor denar⁹ ad tor-
tas²¹¹ & cet^a luminaria inter
eodē temporibz & locis assignat⁹
exhibend Similit⁹ & ordinat⁹ est
qd quicumq;

[Folio 27b.]

them that is to say within the
feast of Corpus Christi [the
Thursday after Trinity Sunday]
in the guildhall of the town of
Northampton before the mayor
and his council for the time
being to undertake the business
there for all the carpenters
dwelling within the liberty of
the town of Northampton fairly
lawfully rightly and faithfully
to observe it in like manner
till the full revolution of that
year But when that year is
completed and when by the
same supervisors all and singular
the things that were to be at-
tended to in respect of their office
have been duly performed they
ought by common consent to
choose from the aforesaid crafts-
men two other men of the
said craft in the same way and
at the time usual among them to
manage in the aforesaid craft
for the common advantage in the
best way Moreover it is ordained
among the craftsmen themselves
that the supervisors so appointed
among them shall receive from
each of the masters of the said
craft working within the liberty
of the town of Northampton once
in the year 4^d for torches (?) and
the rest of the lights to be shown
among the same at times and
places assigned Likewise also it
is ordained that every carpenter

²¹⁰ *Media*, probably meaning fairness between the parties.

²¹¹ *Tortas*, probably a barbarous word for "torches."

carpentari^o primo ville Norhampton adueniens opandi g^ra in Arte p^r diem aut p^r gross^u qd ipe finem faciat artificibz eiudem artis ville Norht. xij. denar & Maiori i^om & Alios. xij denar ad vium ville p^rdee soluende si p^rdcus carpentarius i^om moram faciat vltra quatuor Septimanas Solummodo ad laborande. Similit^r si ipe carpentarius sit magist^r nūcupatus & in villa Norht diutius q^m p vnū Annū i^om moram faciat ad opande qd p^rdcus ille Carpentarius sit in libertatem ville Norhampton Admi^o sedm vsus & consuetudines ville p^rdee sub pena xl^s. Maiori ad opus villate p^rdee soluende & cotidiem denar supuisoribz d^ee Artis reddende Ad luminar p^rdeta fidelit^r exhibende. Itm qd quitit carpentarius p diem opans in Arte sua dumodo non fuisset p^rdcus Artifex Apprenticius infra villam p^rdca^m aut nisi fuit subuitoe Alicuius mag^r d^ee Artis ville p^rdee solue^r debet maiori. xij^s. ut sup^r et supuisoribz ejusdem Artis. xij^s. Itm qd nullus Artifex d^ee Artis ad libertatem ville Norht Admi^o

first coming to the town of Northampton for the purpose of working in the craft by the day or by the piece shall pay a fine to the craftsmen of the same art of the town of Northampton of 12^d and to the mayor there other 12^d to be paid to the use of the town aforesaid if the aforesaid carpenter stay in the same place beyond four weeks only to work Likewise if the carpenter himself be one styled a master and if he stay there in the town of Northampton longer than one year to work that the said carpenter shall be admitted to the liberty of the town of Northampton according to the usages and customs of the town aforesaid under a penalty of 40 pence to be paid to the mayor for the work of the township aforesaid and of paying a penny a day to the supervisors of the said craft for the faithful showing forth of the aforesaid lights Also that every carpenter working by the day in his craft provided that the aforesaid craftsman be not an apprentice within the town aforesaid nor under the instruction of some master of the said craft of the town aforesaid ought to pay to the mayor 12^d as above and to the supervisors of the said craft 12^d Also that no craftsman of the said craft admitted to the liberty of the town of North-

[Folio 28a.]

Aliquem alium virum dē Artis Admissum extra Cū ville Northampton impletat nisi p'us actōnem suam in Cū ibidem attemptauri sub pena xl^s maiori et xl^s. supuisoribz artis p'dē soluendi. Item et quicunqz dē artis infra libertatem ville Northampton qui ad sumonitōem debitam p'dē supuisor seu nōie eoz p'conis cōit^r Assignat^r ad certos diem diem & locum ppter cōmunē vtilitatem dē artis itm ptractandē obedire contempserit incurrē debet penam solutōis unius libre cere dēis supuisoribz soluend nisi excusācō competens pōit eundem excusare. Si quis Autem dē Artis magist^r infra villam Northampton qui huic ordinatōi contraueni^r p'umpserit simil^r incurrē debet solutōem xl^s Arti p'dē & xl^s maiori si ille cōuictus inde fuit^r coram maiore & suo consilio. Item qd nullus gardianus seu dē artis supuisor aliquem p'uatam finem inter partes Artis p'dē faciat neqz aliqua Aff^r concelet. A Maior vel ball^r ville p'dē in iudiciū officij maioratus

Northampton implead any other man of the said craft admitted without the court of the town of Northampton unless he shall first have tried his action in the court there under penalty of paying 40^s to the mayor and 40^s to the supervisors of the art aforesaid. Also whosoever of the said craft within the liberty of the town of Northampton shall have refused to obey the due summons of the aforesaid supervisors or of the crier commonly appointed in their name at fixed day and place on business connected with the common advantage of the said craft ought to incur the penalty of paying one pound of wax to be paid to the said supervisors unless a competent excuse shall be able to excuse him. But if any master of the said craft within the town of Northampton shall have presumed to contravene this ordinance he ought similarly to incur the payment of 40^s to the aforesaid craft and 40^s to the mayor if he shall be convicted of it before the mayor and his council. Also that no warden or supervisor of the said craft shall make any private fine between the parties of the craft aforesaid nor shall conceal any from the mayor or bailiffs of the town aforesaid to the prejudice of the office of the mayor or bailiffs under a penalty of

vel battivoꝝ sub pena . x^o villat⁹
Norht soluende tociens quociens
inde fuit⁹ ꝑdēus supuiſor seu
gardianus coram maiore & ſuo
cōſilio cōuictus modo cōſilij Et
qd nullus Magiſter dēe Artis
Aliquem virum in opam ſuam
recipiat niſi ipm nouit bene
conuſationis & geſture vt ꝑ ipo
reſpondere penes Eccie Dei
ſacre culturam valeat & terre
Regalia inſtituta &c

ORDINACŌ FACT⁹ DE ESSŌII²¹²
TEMPE JOHIS WELLIS MAJORIS

CAPITULUM LX^a & C

[A]^D congregatoem hit⁹ in
Ecclia ſcī Egidij die
dominica ꝑx poſt feſtum ſcī
Egidij Anno regni Regis Henrici
quarti poſt conq̄m tertiodecimo
ex . Aſſenſu Maioris xxiiij^{or} bur-
geni⁹ & totius cōitatis ibm con-
gregatis concordatum eſt & ꝑ
firmoſtabilitū quod quilit imptatus
in Cuſ ville Norht ꝑ Aliquod
ptitum & inuen⁹it huiusmodi pleḡ
legitime ſc̄dm legem & conſuet-
udinem regni Angl necnon ſc̄dm
conſuetudinem dēe ville A tempe
quo memoria hoiū non exiſtit
viſitat⁹

to^a to be paid to the township (?)
of Northampton as often as the
aforesaid ſupervisor or warden
ſhall be convicted of it in the
ſame manner before the mayor
and his council And that no
maſter of the ſaid craft ſhall
receive any man to help him
unleſs he ſhall know him to be
of good converſation and conduct
and can answer for him as to his
reſpect for the Holy Church of
God and the royal inſtitutions of
the land &c

[Folio 28b.]

ORDINANCE MADE CONCERNING
ESSOINERS IN THE TIME OF
JOHN WELLIS²¹³ MAYOR
CHAPTER LX & C

At a meeting held in the
church of S^t Giles on the Sunday
[4th September 1412] next after
the feaſt of S^t Giles in the 13th
year of the reign of Henry the
Fourth after the Conqueſt by the
aſſent of the mayor the 24
burgesses and the whole com-
munity there aſſembled it was
agreed and firmly eſta bliſhed that
anyone impleaded in the court of
the town of Northampton by any
plea ſhall find lawful ſureties
according to the laws and cuſtom
of the realm of England as well
as according to the uſual cuſtom
of the ſaid town from the time
beyond which the memory of
man does not reach and ſhall be

²¹² *Exsonii*, probably a Latinised form of "Essoiners"; or persons who excused themselves from attending on summons.

²¹³ John Wellis or Welles was mayor of the town in 1411-2.

pot⁹it tē p quemcumq; officiārū
videlit Serieauntez baillioz seu
quecumq; Al^m leg^m d^m Regis
essōn & huiusmodi essōn licite
congaudere Absq; impedimento
Aliquali

DE CUSTOD TERRE & HERED
TEMPE JOHIS GREGORY MAIORIS
ANNO PRIMO HENRICI QUINTI

CAPITULUM LXI^m

[Folio 99a.]

[A]^D hūsteng⁹ tent⁹ itm die
lune px post festum s^ci
Petri Aduincta Anno regni Regis
Henrici quinti post conq^m S^cdo
Johes Gregory Maior ville Norht
ex Assensu xxiiij^{or} comburg⁹
eiufdem ville de consilio suo iurat⁹
Assignauit Thome Hunt dehaush^m
& Agnet vxi sue custodiam Johis
Buckyngh^m fit & heredis Johis
Buckyngh^m filij quondm Mag^ri
Henrici Buckyngh^m de Norhton
in custodia d^ei maioris ut de iure
villate ad tunc existentis ad eum
bⁿ & honeste gu⁹ndandum quousq;
ad suam plenarium puenit⁹ etatem
.Ac omia eidem Johi Buckyngh^m
necessar⁹ medio tempe put statu suo
conuen⁹it diligent⁹ puidende nec
non de receptionib; exitum t⁹raz

able three times by some one
of the officials viz serjeants of
the bailiffs or some other of the
lieges of our lord the King to
be essoined and to enjoy essoin
of this kind without hindrance
of any sort

CONCERNING THE CUSTODY OF
LAND AND AN HEIR IN THE TIME
OF JOHN GREGORY²¹⁴ MAYOR IN
THE FIRST YEAR OF HENRY V
CHAPTER LXI

At a court of hustings held
there on the Monday [6th August,
1414] next after the feast of St
Peter ad Vincula in the second
year of the reign of King Henry
the fifth after the Conquest John
Gregory Mayor of the town of
Northampton by the assent of 24
burgesses of the same town
sworn of his council assigned to
Thomas Hunt of Haversham and
Agnes his wife the custody of
John Buckyngham son and heir
of John Buckyngham late son
of Master Henry Buckyngham
of Northampton in the custody
of the said mayor or by right
of the township (?) existing for
this purpose to govern him well
and honestly until he shall arrive
at his full age And all things
necessary to the same John
Buckyngham in the meanwhile
as shall be suitable to his position
diligently to provide moreover as
concerning the receipts of his

²¹⁴ John Gregory was mayor of the town in 1413-4.

& tenementoz suoz vna cum expn
eidm Maiori aut successoribz eius
tociens quociens cum ad hoc fu²int
requisiti fidelem compotū ad red-
dende. Et sup hoc ijdem Thomas
Hunt & Agn inuenerunt pleḡ &
manuautores ad p²mitia omia &
singula ex pte sue p²tacta fidelit²
obseruanda. Videlit Jo²em Cur-
teys Capellanum & Thomam
Blaby de Norht M²cer vtrumq;
eoz sub pena .xl. li

QUOMODO BAILLI NORHT
FACRENT LEZ MEYMPRIIS
CAPITULUM LXIJ^a & C

[A] cause q̄ lez baillifs de la
ville de Norht deaunt ces
heures esicantes ont troḡ greu-
ouement pris des hoīez due
mesme la ville enfraunchies p
colour de lour office excessiues
sumes de moneye pur maymprie
iute & Aile a eux faire agraunde
damage & Arrerement des hoīez
iuydity Pur ceo Alafemble temij
en eglise de seynt Gyle du dite
ville deuant John Spryng adonq;
illeq;^s Maīr le jordy p²chein Ap^s
le clauē de Park lan du regne n²e
p²r le Roye Henry quint puis le
queit tiers p²sent de .xxiiij. com-
burgensēy & tout le Cōialte du
mesme

lands and tenements together
with his expenses to the same
Mayor or his successors as often
as they shall be required so to do
to render a faithful account And
for this the same Thomas Hunt
and Agnes have found sureties
and bondsmen faithfully to ob-
serve the premise all and singular
mentioned on their part viz John
Curteys Chaplain and Thomas
Blaby of Northampton Mercer
each of them under a penalty of
40 pounds

HOW THE BAILIFFS OF NORTH-
AMPTON SHALL TAKE BAIL
CHAPTER LXII & C

By reason that the bailiffs
of the town of Northampton
before the hours fixed have too
grievously taken from the free
men of the same town under
pretence of their office exces-
sive sums of money for bail suit
and to give them ease to the
great damage and annoyance of
the men aforesaid Therefore at
the assembly held in the church
of Saint Giles of the said town
before John Spryng²¹⁵ then and
there mayor the Thursday next
after Rogation Sunday [9th May,
1415] in the third year of the reign
of our lord the king Henry fifth
since the Conquest by the as-
sent of the 24 coburgesses and
all the commonalty of the same

[Folio 29b.]

²¹⁵ A John Spryng, Sprynge or Spryggy, was mayor of the town in 1410-1, 1414-5, 1415-6, 1420-1, 1425-6, 1426-7, 1428-9, 1430-7, probably father and son. John Spring was a member for the town at the parliaments held 1st Henry IV., and John Spriggy 9th Henry V.

la ville illeoqs Assemblez ordeigne est & pur toutz iourey establi q̄ les baillifs du dēe ville quore sunt & q̄ en temps Auenir serrount ne p̄nderent de fore enenant dascun hoīe enfraunchiē de la ville emīdity Arrestu p̄ bref nre Se^r le Roye mainpnable pur mainpris sūte & aīe a luy sayre outre xx^d Et le Clerk du ley dity bailiff ne p̄ndera outre vj^d purson fee Et les quatre s^rieauntz de les baillifs ne p̄nderant pur los fees outre iij^d. cest assauour cheiscun j^d. Et si aīcunz dez baillifs suisdits reteignet en prisoun ascun hoīe de la condicoī suisdēe ap̄s ceo q̄ cely hoīe eit profri A eux deux mainpuōs luffisantz pur eux garder saūz damage encontre le Roye & la ptye de la deliūance hors de prisoun. Ou sils p̄ignent pur mainprise suete & aīe fair outre le Sōme de xx^d suisdity. q̄ adonqs bñ lirra adit hoīe arettu de recoūer des dity Baillifs la value de la moneye a la double illi p̄ eux resū encontr cest ordinance & ceo p̄ la surwe del Maire q̄i s^rra pur le temps & de son countaill et ialemeyns sez damagez a estre taxez p̄ meīme la mayre & soun countaill pur soun emprisonement

the fees of a
man arrested by
writt lett to
bayll

(Folio 30a.)

town at which it is ordered and for ever established that the bailiffs of the said town who are and who in times to come shall not take hereafter

of any free man of the town beforesaid arrested by writ of our lord the king for bail suit and to give him ease above 20 pence And the clerk of the said bailiff shall not take above sixpence for his fee And the four sergeants of the bailiffs shall not take for their fees above 4 pence that is to say each 1 penny And if any of the bailiffs aforesaid keep in prison any man of the condition aforesaid after that that man has offered to them two bails sufficient to guard them saving damage against the king and the party for his deliverance out of prison Or if they take for bail suit and to give ease over the sum of 20 pence aforesaid that then good leave to the man arrested to recover of the said bailiffs the value of the money to double that by them received contrary to this ordinance and therefore for the use of the mayor who shall be for the time and of his counsel and moreover make damage to other taxes for the same mayor and his counsel for his imprisonment

ORDINACIO FACTA PER ARTE ALLU-
TARION TEMPE JOHIS LONDHAM
MAIORIS ANNO REGNI HENRICI
QUARTI POST CONQUESTUM TERTIO
CAPITULUM LXIIII^m

DIE LUNE proxima post festum sancti
Dionisii Anno regni Henrici quarti post
conquestum tertio. Ad commodum ville per
Johannem Londham Maiorem ville
Northampton ex assensu xxiiij^{or} de consilio
suo iurat⁹ ac per assensum totius
artis de cornysers²¹⁶ Crafte in eadem
villa ordinatum est quod homo de
Arte predicta impossibilium incipiens
ad tenendum Shopam de eadem arte
soluat finem de vij^s viij^d ad eius
inceptum tam de tempe elapsam
quam de tempe futuro except⁹ illis
qui antea fecerunt finem secundum
consuetudinem eiusdem artis in dicta villa
Northampton vivunt⁹ Et quod bene licebit
Hugoni Brixworth Willmo Stok-
ton Willmo Pirye cornysers &
Hugoni Hikedon Magistris nunc per
Anno futuro per dictam Maiorem
electum de

ORDINANCE MADE FOR THE
CRAFT OF CORDWAINERS IN THE
TIME OF JOHN LONDHAM²¹⁷
MAYOR IN THE THIRD YEAR
OF THE REIGN OF HENRY THE
FOURTH AFTER THE CONQUEST
CHAPTER LXIII

On the Monday next after
the feast of S Denys [Monday,
16th October, 1401] in the third
year of the reign of Henry the
fourth after the Conquest For
the advantage of the town by
John Londham Mayor of the
town of Northampton by the
assent of 24 of his council
sworn and with the assent of
the whole craft of the "corn-
ysers crafte" in the same to
which it was ordained that every
man of the craft aforesaid here-
after commencing to hold a shop
for the same craft shall pay a
fine of 6^s 8^d at its commence-
ment as well for time past as
for time to come excepting
those who have heretofore made
a fine according to the usual
custom of the said craft in
the said town of Northampton
And that it shall be allowed
to Hugh Brixworth William
Stokton William Pirye cornysers
and to Hugh Hikedon now
chosen masters for the coming
year by the said Mayor con-

[Folio 30b.]

²¹⁶ Bailey gives Cordineer as another form of Cordwainers.

²¹⁷ John Londham, or Louthel was mayor of the town in 1401-2. John
Lodham was member for the town at the parliament held 1st Henry IV.

the fees of a
shomaker that
sett th vp a
shoppe

eadem arte ac alijs magr̃is qui p
tempe fuit⁹ impoſitum eligend
dēos .vj^o viij^d. de quot de eadē
arte ſic ſhopam incipient leuar
& xl^d inde ſolu⁹ maiori qui p
tempe fuit⁹ ad opus ville & alios
xl^d inde penes eoſdm magros ad
opus dēe Artis retinere & diſ-
pon⁹e put eis melius videbit^r
expedire. Videlt in tortis et alijs
lumina circa eucaristiā & ſep-
ultu mortuoz .ad honorem ville.
Et vlt⁹ius ordinatum eſt p dēos
maiores & xxiiij^{or} qd ſn liceat
dēis magr̃is ad finem dēi Anni
ſui ex allenſu totius dēe Artis
p ſe ipſos alios magros de eadē
arte elig⁹e & ſic de anno in
annū ipſos magros ſic electos
maiori qui p tempe fuit⁹ ad fac-
iend iuramentū eis adiungend
p⁹ſentare. & dēi magri ſup ſacram
iurat ac alij magri qui pro tempe
ſu⁹unt ſupvideant omēs defectus
dēe artis & p⁹ſentent Maiori qui
p tempe ſu⁹it omnes tranſgreſſores
eiufdem artis vna cum defectubz
eoꝝdem. Ita qd p maiorem &
conſilium ſuū ſcdm quantitatem eoꝝ
delicti debite pot⁹unt puniri &
caſtigari. Et ſi aliquis de

[Folio 31a.]

cerning the ſaid craft and to
other maſters who for the time
ſhall be hereafter choſen to levy
the ſaid 6^s 8^d from every man
ſo commencing a ſhop for the
ſame craft and to pay 40^d of
it to the Mayor for the time
being for the work of the town
and to retain the other 40^d of
it with the maſters themſelves
and to diſpoſe of it as ſhall
ſeem to be moſt expedient for
them viz in torches and other
lights about the Euchariſt and
burial of the dead to the honour
of the town And further it was
ordained by the ſaid Mayor and
24 that it be allowed to the
ſaid maſters at the end of their
ſaid year by the aſſent of the
whole of the ſaid craft to chooſe
by themſelves other maſters of
the ſaid craft and ſo from year
to year to preſent theſe maſ-
ters ſo choſen to the Mayor for
the time being to take the oath
appointed for them And the
ſaid maſters being ſworn upon
the Sacrament and the other
maſters who have been for the
time ſhall ſupervize all ſhort-
comings of the ſaid craft and
ſhall preſent to the Mayor for
the time being all tranſgreſſors
of the ſame craft together with
the ſhortcomings of the ſame
So that by the mayor and his
council according to the extent
of their fault they can be duly
punished and chaſtiſed and is

arte p'dcā in p'dcā vill Norht
comorans ad sumonitōem dcoꝝ
magroꝝ vel alicui eozdem aut
alius eoz deputati ad c'ta tempus
dies & loca sibi assignand infra
libtatem eiusdem ville non venit.⁹
tunc bñ liceat dēis magris de
illo sic sumot⁹ & non venient⁹
tociens quociens huic ordinatōi
cont'uen⁹it vnam libram cere
recipe & leuar p suo contemptu
vnde medietatem ad tortas p'dcās
dūponend & aliam medietatem
ad opus ville maiori qui p tempe
fuit libabunt &c

ORDINACIO FACT PRO PORCIS
TEMPE RICĪ WEMMES MAIORIS
ANNO RĒ HENRICI QUINTI
IX^o & X^o

CAPITULO LXIII^o

Die ven⁹is px post festum Sēi
Gregorij Anno regni Regis Ricī
secundū post conquestum quarto
tempe Simonis Daventre tunc
maioris Congregatōne habita ad
Eccliam Sēi Egidij iōm tunc
ordinatum fuit ex cōi assensu &
pelamat⁹ qd nullus dimitteret
porcos suos in vijs infra

anyone of the aforesaid craft
staying in the aforesaid town
of Northampton shall not come
at the summons of the aforesaid
masters or any one of them or
any other deputy of theirs at
the certain times days and places
assigned to him within the lib-
erty of the same town then it
may be lawful to the said
masters concerning the man so
summoned and not coming as
often as he shall contravene
this ordinance to receive and
levy for his contempt one pound
of wax of which they shall dis-
pose one moiety to the torches
aforesaid and the other moiety
they shall deliver for the work
of the town to the mayor for
the time being &c

ORDINANCE MADE FOR PIGS IN
THE TIME OF RICHD WEMMES²¹⁸
MAYOR IN THE 9th & 10th YEARS
OF THE REIGN OF HENRY V

CHAPTER LXIII

The Friday next after the
feast of Saint Gregory [Friday,
15th March, 1381] in the fourth
year of the reign of Richard
the 2nd since the conquest in the
time of Simon Daventre²¹⁹ then
mayor At a congregation held
at the same church of Saint Giles
the following ordinance was
made by general consent and
proclamation that no one send
his pigs into the streets within

the tyne for
hoggs going at
large in the
strete and waye
of the towne

²¹⁸ Richard Wemmes, or Wemys, was mayor of the town in 1421-2. Richard Wemys was member for the town at the parliament held 12th Henry IV.

²¹⁹ Simon Daventre in 1380-1, 1386-7, and 1390-1.

villam extra custodiam ire sub
pena quadraginta denar soluent
ville et vnus denar soluent
Balliuis p quolibet porco &c

the town out of his custody
under a penalty of 40^d to be
paid to the town and 1^d to be
paid to the Bailiffs for every
pig &c

[Folio 31b.]

ORDINACIO FACT P CANIBUS
CAP^o LXV^o &c

Item qd nullus sub pena
quadraginta denar soluent villate
dimitteret canem suum Aliquem
nisi gentilem & malum non fac-
ientem in villa Circumvagare
ymmo tenere hui^a canem in
ligamine nisi quando Aliquis De-
uillauerit & canem secum here
voluerit

for custyd
dogge vntyed
xl d.

ORDINACIO FACT P ELECT
BURGENS PLIAMENT
CAPITULO LXV^o &c

[A]d congregacōnem h̄tam in
ecclia p^odca die Martis in septi-
mana Pasche eodem Anno tempe
dei Laurencij Haddon maioris
Simon Daventre & Ricus Raw-
lyns fuerunt electi Burgen^s p
parliamento tenend apud Westm̄
in Crastino s̄ci Johis Ante portam
latinam tunc px futu^r Et insup
tunc ordinatum fuit qd quilibet
Norht Maioratus officium pprius
hens sit impossū electus in
Burgen^s

ORDINANCE MADE FOR DOGS
CHAPTER LXV &c

Item that no one under a
penalty of 40^d to be paid to the
township shall let any dog of his
unless gentle and not mischievous
roam about the town but rather
to hold his dog in a leash ex-
cept when any may have gone
out of the town and wished to
have his dog with him

ORDINANCE MADE FOR THE
ELECTION OF BURGESSES OF
PARLIAMENT

CHAPTER LXVI &c

At a congregation held in
the church aforesaid on Tuesday
in Easter week in the same
year [Tuesday, 16th April, 1381]
in the time of the said Laurence
Haddon²⁹⁰ Mayor Simon Dav-
entre and Richard Rawlyns were
elected Burgesses for the Par-
liament to be held at Westminster
on the morrow of St John before
the Latin gate [Tuesday, 7th
May, 1381] then next ensuing and
furthermore it was then ordained
that everyone last holding the
office of mayor of Northampton
should be hereafter elected Bur-

²⁹⁰ Lawrence Haddon was mayor of the town in 1381-2. Laurence de Haddon was member for the town at the parliament held 43rd Edward III.

pliamenti si illud officium bur-
gens non pante gesserit non
obstante officio Maioratus pdci &c

of Parliament if he shall not
have discharged the office of
Burgess before the office of the
mayoralty aforesaid being no
hindrance &c

ORDINACIO FACT^a P^r HOSTILLAR^{um}
CAP^o LXVIJ

[A]d congregatōem habitam in
ecclia sēj Egidij die dñca px
post festum sēi Michis Archi
Anno regni pdci Regis Ricī
septimo tempe Thome Sutton
tunc maioris ordinatum fuit
quod nullus hostillar^{um} ville Nor-
hampton faceret panem equim
nec Allium panem ad vendend
in hosteleria sua sub pena viginti
solidoz soluend villat^o tociens quo-
ciens huic contrauenerit ordina-
cōni &c

ORDINANCE MADE FOR
INNKEEPERS
CHAPTER LXVII

At a congregation holden in
the church of S^t Giles on Sunday
next after the feast of S Michael
the Archangel [Sunday, 4th
October, 1383] in the 7th year
of the aforesaid King Richard
in the time of Thomas Sutton ²²¹
then Mayor it was ordained that
no innkeeper of the town of
Northampton should make horse-
bread or any other bread to sell
in his inn under a penalty of
20^s to be paid to the Steward
as often as he shall contravene
this ordinance &c

[Folio 322.]

An jñne
baking hofbred
xx s.

ORDINACIO FACT^a P^r SUIENT^{um}
BALLIOZ
CAP^o LXVIII^o

[A]d congregatōem hitam in
ecclia Egidij die Ven^{is} px ante
festum P^hi & Jacobi Anno regni
pdci Regis Ricardi quartodecimo
p^r Assensum xxiiiij^{or} Burgensium
tocius coitatis ville Norhampton
coram Simone Daventre tunc
maiore eiudem ville sumonitoz

ORDINANCE MADE FOR
SERJEANTS OF THE BAILIFFS
CHAPTER LXVIII

At a congregation holden in
the church of S^t Giles on Friday
next before the feast of Philip
and James [Friday, 28th April,
1391] in the 14th year of the
reign of the aforesaid King
Richard by the assent of the 24
burgesses of the whole commonal-
ty of the town of Northampton be-
fore Simon Daventre ²²² then Mayor
of the same town summoned and

²²¹ Thomas Sutton was mayor of the town in 1383-4; and member at the par-
liament held 42nd Edward III.

²²² Simon Daventre in 1380-1, 1386-7, 1390-1.

that the
serjeants shall
not beg payne
xxx

& congregatoꝝ ordinatū tuit qd
s'uietes videit Clauig'i Ballioꝝ
Norhampton deceto in villa Nor-
hampton nec extra vt soluet ad
certa tempa Anni non mendica-
bunt sub pena viginti solidos
leuand ad opus ville de quocumq;
illoꝝ hoc faciente lociens quociens
&c

assembled it was ordained that
the serjeants viz the macebearers
of the bailiffs of Northampton
henceforth [either] in the town
or without as they are accus-
tomed to do at certain times of
the year shall not beg under a
penalty of 20^s to be levied for
the work of the town from
each one of them so doing as
often as &c

ORDINACō FACT p VADIJS
DELIBAN
CAPITULO LXIX &c

[Folio 32b.]

[E]t insup itm tunc fuit ordinatū
& concessum qd omnes hoies &
mulieres Norht hentes vel hab-
ituri vadia et districtiones in
Custodia quozcumq; Camerarioꝝ
cōitatis ville p'dē pro quacumq;
causa itm iacencia qd acquient
& satisfaciant pro dictis vadijs
et districtionib; infra quartium
Anni post captōem eozdem sub
pena forissatur eoz vadioꝝ &
& districionū villate Et si illa vadia
aut districtiones non sufficiant p
Amciamentis p quib; leuant
capiant^r plura & meliora &c

distresses
taken by the
chamberlaynes to
be sold aitt a
quatr of a yer

ORDINANCE MADE
FOR REDEEMING PLEDGES
CHAPTER LXIX &c

And furthermore at the same
place it was then ordained and
conceded that all men and women
of Northampton having or going
to have pledges and distresses in
the custody of any chamberlains
of the commonalty of the town
aforesaid for any cause whatso-
ever lying in the same place
that they acquit and satisfy for
the said pledges and distresses
within a quarter of a year after
the taking of the same under
a penalty of forfeiting their
pledges and distresses to the
township And if those pledges
and distresses be not sufficient
for the amercements for which
they are levied more and better
ones may be taken &c

STATUTA ET ORDINACÔNES

DE NOVO P VAST LOC

SIUE PLAC

CAP^o LXX &C

Quia certe vatte placere soli infra villam p^dcam linijs & Alijs fordidis diuimode occupant^r de quibz Balliui dni Regis seu Camerarij itm aliqua redditus seu proficua p tempa p^dta nullo modo pceperunt nec p^dciunt in presenti Ideo in vltimo generali colloquio in d^ee ville meliorat^oem vnanimio assensu ordinatum existit piter & prouisum Quod Maior & Camerarij ville p^dce qui p tempe f^uint decetero heant plenam potestatem loco & n^oie totius c^oitatis pⁿoiate dimittendi ad firmam omnes & singulas Vastoco²²⁵ placeas soli infra villam p^dictam existentes sub Sigillo eo^z Communi p certis redditibz eis et eo^z successoribz ad v^um ville p^dce Annuatim reddend & in thesauro Camerie itm fidelit^r p^osoluend Saluo semp balliuis dⁿi Regis itm [qui] p tempe fuerint de qualibet vatta placea soli dⁿi Regis itm vno Annuali redditu racionabil^r secundum porci^one eiudem &c

STATUTES AND ORDINANCES
MADE ANEW FOR WASTE SPOTS
OR PLACES

CHAPTER LXX &C

Whereas certain waste places of ground within the town aforesaid are occupied by thieves and other filthy persons here and there from whom the bailiffs of the lord king or chamberlains in the same place have in no manner received any returns or profits for times past nor are receiving at present Therefore in the last general conference for the improvement of the said town by unanimous assent it is ordained and provided that the Mayor and Chamberlains of the town aforesaid for the time being henceforth may have full power in the place and name of the whole commonalty beforenamed of letting out to farm all and singular waste places of ground within the town aforesaid existing under their common seal for certain rents to be rendered annually to them and their successors for the town aforesaid and in the treasury of the chamber there faithfully to be paid saving always to the bailiffs of the lord king there for the time being concerning any waste place of ground there one annual rent reasonably according to the size of the same &c

voydgroundes
v^uer mukh lla
be other to be
lette by the
mayor &
chamberlaynes

[Folio 33a.]

²²⁵ This word should be *vastias*.

ALIA ORDINACI^o P^r LE BOWBELL
CAP^o LXXJ^o

[E]T pro eo qd in Ciuitate Londonⁱ int^o alias consuetudines vna valde comendabilis itm in speciali heat^r qd ad horam nouenam cuiuslibet noctis ferialis & festiualis anni quedam campana in arcub^{us} Londonⁱ vocat^r Bowbell p^{er} spaciū vnus miliaris solempni^{us} pulsatur p^{er} quod omnes & singuli ad Ciuitatem p^{re}d^{ic}am laborantes & in Campis itm noctan^{tes} obsecrari eid^{em} Ciuitati p^{er} hospicio suo hendo citius poterint confluere Et qd nullus campana p^{re}d^{ic}a pulsata in Ciuitate p^{re}d^{ic}a absq^{ue} lumine & causa rationabili circumvagat sub pena imprisonmenti & graue redemptionis Ciuitati p^{re}d^{ic}e faciend Et ad consimilem consuetudinem impossum infra Villam Northampton effectuali^{us} h^{ab}ere & vtend. Prouisum etiam & in gen^{er}ali colloquio p^{re}d^{ic}o existit ordinatum qd in qualibet nocte feriali & festiuali ad horam nouenam eiusdem noctis. magna solempnior campana Ecc^{les}ie Omⁿi^{um} Sco^{lar}u^m itm p^{er} eiusdem ecc^{les}ie Sacristam spacio vnus miliaris durante decessu

[Folio 33b.]

ANOTHER ORDINANCE FOR
THE BOWBELL
CHAPTER LXXI

And forasmuch as in the city of London among other customs one greatly to be commended is specially kept that at the ninth hour of every night common day and holiday of the year a certain bell in the arches²²⁴ of London called Bowbell for the space of one hour is solemnly rung whereby all and singular working at the city aforesaid and benighted in the fields may be able to betake themselves to the same city more quickly for getting shelter And that no one after the bell aforesaid has been rung in the city aforesaid without a light and a reasonable excuse shall roam about under the penalty of imprisonment and paying a heavy fine to the city aforesaid And for the effectual establishment and use of a like custom henceforth within the town of Northampton It was also provided and in the general conference aforesaid ordained that in every night and festival at the ninth hour of the same night the great and more solemn bell of the church of All Saints there by the sexton of the same church for the space of one hour

²²⁴ This is the church of St. Mary le Bow, Cheapside, London; its Latin dedication was S. Maria de Arcubus.

solempnit⁹ pullet^r vt per sonū
eiusdem quicumq; in campis ibm
obscuritate noctis existentes ville
p^odēe citius pot⁹int adherere Et
qd nullus cuiuscumq; fuerit con-
ditōis infra villam p^odēam pul-
tatione dēe magne campane finita.
nisi secum lumen portaūit &
rationabilem pro se fuerit in hac
pte causam latitans inueniat^r Nec
vagans sub pena prisonamenti &
grauē redemptionis scdm maioris
ibm discretionem qui pro tempe
fuerit ad vñm ville p^odēe faciend
tociensquociens in p^omissioz Aliquo
fuerit conuictus

lasting shall be solemnly rung
that by the sound of the same
whosoever are in the fields there
in darkness of night may more
quickly be able to reach the town
aforesaid And that no one of
whatsoever condition he may be
within the town aforesaid after
the ringing of the said great bell
is finished unless he shall carry a
light with him and shall have in
this respect a reasonable excuse
for himself may be found lurking
or wandering under the penalty
of imprisonment and paying a
heavy fine according to the
discretion of the mayor for the
time being for the use of the
town aforesaid as often as he
shall have been convicted in any
one of the premises

that no man go
wout a lyght
in the ttrete aftr
ix of the clok
bell

ORDINACō P^r Cōi IN CAMPIS
IBM HEND

CAPITULO LXXIJ &c

ET PRO tanto qd omnes pascua
& pasture cōitati ville Norhamp-
ton ptinencia per Carnificium &
alioz ville eiusdem animalia qm
plura existunt destructa & in dies
consumpta ad Cōitatis prenominate
dampnū non modicū piter &
grauamen. Ordinum tunc existit
& vlt⁹ius prouisum qd quilibet
liber homo ville Norht duo ani-
malia bruta in Cūibz

ORDINANCE FOR HAVING
COMMON IN THE FIELDS THERE
CHAPTER LXXII &c

And forasmuch as all the
meadows and pastures belong-
ing to the commonalty of the
town of Northampton by the
many beasts of the butchers
and others of the same town
are destroyed and consumed from
day to day to the no small loss
and grievance of the common-
alty before named It was then
ordained and further provided
that every free man of the town
of Northampton may have two
brute beasts in the common

[Folio 34a.]

no ma kepe
mo beſtes than
100 vpon the
comons

paſcuis & paſturis p^onoiat^e libere
& quiete annuatim paſturata tantū
& non plura heat decet^o tempe
commū niſi finem d^ee ville Came-
rarijs p^o tempe exiſtentibz p^o
quolibet aīalium p^odcoz capite
duobz aīalibz ſuis p^onōiatis ſemp
except^o annuatim fecerit & eis
fidelit^o ſoluerit put in ea pte
pot^oint concordare ſub xx^a pena
ad vīum dīce ville pſoluend^e
tociens quociens de contrario
ordinationis p^oſentis in Aliquo
fuerit conuictus

meadows and paſtures before-
named grazing freely and quietly
only and no more hereafter in
common time unleſs he pay a
fine to the chamberlains of the
ſaid town for the time being for
every head of beaſts aforeſaid
(his two beaſts before named
always excepted) every year and
faithfully pay to them according
as they ſhall be able to agree
in that reſpect under a penalty
of paying 20^s for the uſe of
the ſaid town as often as he
ſhall have been convicted in
anything contrary to the preſent
ordinance

ALIA ORDINAC^o PRO
VENDITORIBUS EXTRANEIS
CAPITULO LXXII^o & C

Item quia diuerſi Mercer Hab-
ardaſſhatores Cultellarij & aliaꝝ
reꝝ venalium hardware nuncu-
patoꝝ venditores extranei diuſis
vicis & locis ville p^od^ee cum mer-
chandijs ſuis diebz m^ocatiuis in
eadem villa vſitatis. Et p^ocipue
int^o fontem in regno cocoꝝ & occi-
dentalem corneram Cimit^oij ecclie
omī S^ocoꝝ iſm ante hec tempa ſtare
conſuerunt in p^ot^oeuntiū nocu-
mentū & contra conſuetudines
formam ab antiquo vſitat.

ſtraunge art-
ficers ſhall ſtand
in the market
vpon payne of
xx s.

ANOTHER ORDINANCE FOR
STRANGE TRADERS
CHAPTER LXXIII & C

Also ſince diuers ſtraunge
mercens haberdashers butchers
and ſellers of other goods for
ſale called hardware in diuers
ſtreets and places of the town
aforeſaid have been accuſtomed
heretofore to ſtand with their
merchandise on the uſual market
days in the ſame town and
eſpecially between the fountain
in the Cooks' Quarter²²⁶ and
the weſt corner of the church-
yard of All Saints in the
ſame place to the injury of the
paſſers by and againſt the cus-
toms [and] form anciently uſed

²²⁶ Probably Mercers' row: the Cooks' Arms ſtood by the conduit or fountain,
where Waterloo Houſe now ſtands.

Predci maior comburgenses & Cõ-
itas sup pmissis volentes remedm
prouidere Et dict⁹ consuetudinem
antiquam in suam formam & vim
totalit⁹ reformare. Ordinarunt &
instituerunt vnamint⁹ p futu^r quod
p^rdci venditores extranei cuiuf-
cumq; artis fuerint omnibus
dieb; in quib; m^ocatu in Nor-
hampton het^r in regno mercenariis
itm iuxta les ffishstalles cum suis
m^ocandis quibuscumq; sãdm con-
suetudinem ab antiquo vt p^rfertur
habit⁹ decetero stent in foro itm
& non alibi sub pena xx^s de eoz
quolibet ad vsum ville p^rdce
leuande tociens quociens in
p^rmissis inueniat^r vel aliquis eoz
inueniat^r delinquentes se delin-
quens contra formam p^rlibatam

The aforesaid mayor fellow-
burgesses and commonalty wish-
ing to provide a remedy for the
premisses and wholly to restore
the said ancient custom to its
own form and force have or-
dained and appointed unani-
mously for the future that the
aforesaid strange traders of what-
soever craft they may be on all
days on which a market is held
in Northampton in the Hirelings'
Quarter there near the fish stalls
with all their merchandise what-
soever according to the custom
anciently held as is reported
shall stand in the market place
there and not elsewhere under
a penalty of 20^s to be levied
from every one of them for the
use of the town aforesaid as
often as he be found in the
premises or any one of them
transgressing against the form
before delivered

[Folio 34b.]

ALIA ORDINACIO PRO COMMUN
PIXIDE

CAPITULO LXXIII^o &c

Item p omⁿ p^rdce ville Assen-
sum cõem prouisum existit &
Stabilitum qd vna pixidis cõis
ferrura duaz clauiu sufficient⁹
confecta pro finib; & alijs proficuis
virtute officij maioratus itm
Annuatim annuatim

ANOTHER ORDINANCE FOR THE
COMMON CHEST

CHAPTER LXXIII^o &c

Item by the common assent
of all of the aforesaid town it is
provided and established that
one common chest stoutly
wrought of iron with two keys
shall be henceforth procured
for the fines and other re-
ceipts by virtue of the office
of the mayoralty there annually
hereafter accruing in the same

[Folio 35a.]

that the
mayor shall
have xxi mkes
out of the box
and medle wt
no lynes

imposterum prouenientibz in eadem pixide imponendis & custodiend in villa p^odca decet^o heat^r. Que quidem pixidis p^onotata in custodia maioris & clauis eiusdem in custodia Camerarioz d^ee ville p^o tempe existent^o annuatim Remanebunt toto tempe suoz officioz occupationis toto tempe suoz Officioz occupatione durante Et qd camerarij p^odicti de finibz & proficuis p^odictis in d^ea pixide content^o Maiore ville p^odcte p^o tempe existent^o viginti marcas p^o feodo suo cum omibz & singlis expen^e forinsec^e p^o villa p^odca p^o ipm fact^o & faciend ad festa Pasche & S^ci Petri Aduincta equis porcionibus annuatim soluent indilate. Et qd nullus d^ee ville Maior p^o tempe existens aliquid de finibz & proficuis p^odictis ad vsum suu p^oprium contra formam p^omissam imposs^oum Aliqualit^o recipiat. Nec concealmentu inde modo quocumqz faciat neqz pixidem p^odcam in sua custodia. vltra vnum diem post computu Anni sui plenaf confect^o feodo suo expen^e p^odctis sibi tunc integre p^osolutis Aliquo modo retineat. Sed eandem pixidem eiusdem Camerarijs oio tunc liberari faciat sub pena sui feodi p^oscripti finalis pdicionis

chest to be put and kept in the town aforesaid Which chest indeed beforenamed shall remain for the year in the custody of the mayor and the keys of the same in the custody of the chamberlains of the said town for the time being during the whole time of the tenure of their offices And that the chamberlains aforesaid from the fines and receipts aforesaid contained in the said chest to the mayor of the town aforesaid for the time being shall without delay pay 20 marks for his fee with all and singular outside expenses for the town aforesaid incurred and to be incurred by him at the festivals of Easter and St. Peter ad Vincula in equal portions every year And that no mayor of the said town for the time being shall hereafter in any way receive anything from the fines and receipts aforesaid for his own proper use contrary to the form set forth Nor may he make concealment of it in any way whatever nor may he in any way retain the chest aforesaid in his custody after the the account of his year has been fully finished his fee [and] expenses aforesaid having been paid in full But the same chest to the same chamberlains must then surely cause to be delivered under the penalty of the final loss of his fee prescribed

Et qd cōis Clauiger maiori p'dēo annuatim assignatus ad finem cuiuslibet mensis Anni omnes & singulas denar sumas p ipm de finibz p'dictis modo tempe leuat⁹ leuand recept⁹ & Recipiend Cam'arijs p'dictis sub pena officij sui pditionis & ab eodem expulsionis p'oluet & cum dilatione post pōita liberauit . Acetiam qd idem cōis clauiger & Camerarij p'dicti Annuatim infra Vnū Mensem px post festum saci Michis coram auditoribz p cōitatem ville p'dēe electis seu eligend fidelit⁹ computabut & omnia Arreragia compotoz suoz p'dictoz quozcumqz immediate plene tunc p'oluent . omni excusatione impedimento seu ditione in hac pte postponend & totalit⁹ omittend . Que quidem arreragia p'dēa Ac omne supplu-fagiū monete in Cōi pixide tunc inuent⁹ annuatim infra duos dies post compotos p'dētos finitas p' sequent⁹ custodibz cōis Cite ville p'dēe ad ea ineadem Cista ad vium eiusdem ville fidelit⁹ conseruand p auditores p'dēos oio delibant⁹ in effectū

And that the common mace-bearer annually assigned to the said mayor at the end of each month of the year shall pay and without delay deliver all and singular the sums of pence by himself from the fines aforesaid at any time levied to be levied received and to be received to the chamberlains aforesaid under the penalty of the loss of his office and expulsion from the same And also that the same common mace-bearer and chamberlains aforesaid every year within one month next after the feast of S. Michael faithfully make out their account before the auditors elected or to be elected by the commonalty of the town aforesaid and shall then immediately in full pay all arrears of their accounts whatsoever all excuse hindrance or delay in this respect being wholly laid aside and omitted Which arrears aforesaid and every surplus of money then found in the common chest every year within two days after the completion of the accounts aforesaid next following to the keepers of the common chest of the town aforesaid must be altogether in fact delivered for them to be faithfully kept in the same chest for the use of the same town by the auditors aforesaid

[Folio 35b.]

ORDINACO PRO CÔI RIPARIO
IBM

CAPITULO LXXV^o &c

[P]UR ceo q̄ le cõe ewe Appelle Nene app'tenaut a la fraunchise de Norhampton est graundement amentie de pefsons p pleufours pescheours & autres malfaisours p diuerfes reyes & autres engynes ment resonablez. en destruccion des pefsons & agrant damage de la ville Ordeyne. est & pur toutz iours establez p laissent de xxiiij Burgeises & toute la Coialte de la ville de Norhampton somonez & assemblez deuant Simon Spicer adonq̄s Maire de meisme la ville en la Glise de Seint Gile lundy preschoin apers le fest de seint Michell lan du regne nre s^r le Roy Henry quart puis le conquest neostime pur le cõe profite de la dite ville North q̄ annuelment lez Chaumbleyns de meisme la ville quy ferrent pur le temps de formes aueront la gouernaunce de touz lez ewes appartenantz a la dite ville paiantz a lez Baillifz. de meisme la ville quy ferront p le temps. xxiiij^a enaide de lour ferme. Et q̄ lez ditz Chaumbirleyns letteront lez ditz ewes chescun an a ferme al oops de la ville Et auxint q̄ null fermour de lez ditz ewes decy enauant auera ne

[Folio 36a.]

ORDINANCE FOR THE COMMON
RIVER BANKS OF THE
SAME [TOWN]

CHAPTER LXXV &c

Forasmuch as the common water called Nene belonging to the franchise of Northampton is greatly denuded of fish by many fishers and other evil doers by diverse nets and other engines much used in destruction of the fish and to the great damage of the town It is ordained and for ever established by the permission of the twenty four burgesses and all the commonalty of the town of Northampton summoned and assembled before Simon Spicer²²⁵ then mayor of the same town in the church of Saint Giles the Monday next after the feast of Saint Michael [Monday, 3rd October, 1407] the ninth year of the reign of our lord King Henry the fourth since the conquest for the common profit of the said town of Northampton that annually the chamberlains of the same town who shall for the time hereafter have the government of all the waters which appertain to the said town pay to the bailiffs of the same town for the time being 24^s in aid of their farm And that the said chamberlains let each of the said waters to farm at the will of the town And also that no farmer of the said waters from henceforth have

²²⁵ Simon Spicer was mayor of the town in 1407-8.

viéra null maners de Reyes appe-
 lez dreyes tramayles le buches
 eiantz meindre maish en lez bracez
 ne en lez piies de meismes lez reis
 forsqz trelix q hoime purra leger-
 ment getter vne Grote de argent
 p mye la maish . et ceo pur salua-
 cion des meimz peissons accrestre
 pur effor en lez dytz ewes . for-
 prises Gogeouns menus & anguilles
 Et q lez ditz ffermours ne prond-
 rent aucuns peissons en lez ditz
 ewes a vendre ne a doner simoun
 q chescoun peissonij soit de longure
 de . v . poudes au meins sur peyne
 de payer ala ville . viij^s viij^d . & de
 forffaire soun terme & lez reys
 suidit a chescun feitz qils ferront
 trenez . en le defaute Et outre ceo
 q nulles molyners . eiantz moleyns
 en ferme dedains la fraunchise de
 meisme la ville aueront ne viefont
 aucuns reyes nautres engynes for-
 sqz en la maner auantdit surmeisme
 la peyne Et q null fermor de lez
 ewes suidit quy ferront pur le
 temps lessera a nully autre a sonne
 pte de lez ewes auantdit li ile ne
 soit q luy plerra dordeynre . a luy
 vncompaignon al commencement de
 soun terme . Et auxint q null hoime
 de Northampton nautre q conq
 desore enauant ne pesche en lez .
 ditz ewes oue null maner de Reys
 Angles neautres engynes sur la
 peyne & forffaiture auantdit
 Sauuant touz

or use any kind of net called drag
 trammels or blocks having a
 smaller mesh in the arms or feet
 of the same net as aforesaid save
 such as a man could easily draw
 a groat of silver through the
 mesh and this for the safety of
 the same fish and to increase the
 stock in the said waters save
 gudgeons minnows and eels And
 that the said farmers do not take
 any fish out of the said waters to
 sell nor to give unless each fish
 be of the length of five inches
 at the least under the penalty of
 paying to the town six shillings
 and eight pence and to forfeit
 their term and the nets aforesaid
 each time they are taken in the
 default And also that no millers
 having mills to farm within the
 franchise of the same town have
 or use any nets or other engines
 save in the manner aforesaid under
 the same penalty And that no
 farmer of the waters aforesaid
 who shall be for the time being
 shall let to any other his part of
 the waters aforesaid unless it
 shall be that it please him to
 take a partner from the com-
 mencement of his term And also
 that no man of Northampton nor
 any other whosoever hencefor-
 ward shall fish in the said waters
 with any kind of nets angles or
 other engines under the pain and
 forfeiture aforesaid Saving always

[Folio 96b.]

feitz q̄ bien lirra auchescun
hoīe de la ville enfranchise a
pescher en lez ewes de la dēe ville
appelez Olde ees . oueīqz les
Shouenettes chescun Mesoardy
Vendredy Samady & autres io's
de Juner & null autres io's fil ne
foit p̄ caue de maladie sur peyne
de greuous Amercement .

that it shall be well allowed to
each man of the town enfran-
chised to fish in the waters of the
said town called Old [? water]
also the "Shouenettes" each Wed-
nesday Friday Saturday and other
fasting days and no other days
if it be not because of sickness
under pain of grievous fine

[Folio 37a.]

ORDINAC̄O FACT̄ TEMPE
SIMONIS DAVENTRE MAIORIS
ANNO R̄R̄ R̄C̄I S̄CDI X^o
CAPITULO LXXV^o

[A] Dhuftengū tentum die lune
p̄ ante dñc in Ramis
Palmarū Anno regni Regis R̄C̄I
S̄cdi decimo p̄ Maiori Coronatoī
& xxiii^{or} comburgen̄s in Gildam
Aulam plenā cōuocat^o ordinat^o
fuit & post modum publice in diūsis
locis ville Norht p̄clamatū qd
omnes hoīes & mulier ville Norht
hentes vadia aut districtiones in
custodia quozcomqz battioz ville
p̄dicte que fuerunt ante dict^o
diem p̄ executionibz vel Amercia-
mentis vel pro Aliqua causa tan-
gente balliam suam iacensia qd
acquitarent & satisfacerent p̄ dēis
vadijs & districtionibz citra . xl^m
diem extunc p̄ sequent sub pena
p̄ditiois

distresses
taken by the
baylvs to be
forfayted by a
day if they be
not redeemed

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME
OF SIMON DAVENTRE ²²⁷ MAYOR
IN THE TENTH YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF RICHARD THE
SECOND

CHAPTER LXXVI

At a Court of Hustings held
on Monday next before Palm
Sunday [Monday, 25th March,
1387] in the tenth year of the
reign of King Richard the Second
by the Mayor Coroner and 24
burgesses regularly summoned to
the Guild Hall it was ordained
and presently publicly proclaimed
in divers places of the town of
Northampton that all men and
women of the town of Northamp-
ton having pledges and distresses
in the custody of any of the bailiffs
of the town aforesaid which have
been lying before the said day for
executions or fines or for any
cause touching his office of bailiff
that they acquit and satisfy for
the said pledges and distresses
within the fortieth day then next
following under the penalty of

²²⁷ Simon Daventre was mayor of the town in 1380-1, 1386-7, and 1390-1.

dicto vad & district⁹ imppm Et qd nullus decet⁹ heat in Custodia Ballioꝝ quozcumq; Norht futuroꝝ vadia aut districtiones vt p⁹dēm est iacencia vltra festum S^ci Martini in yeme p[x] post recessum huiusmodi ballioꝝ Ab officio suo sub pena p⁹dēa

ORDINAC⁹ FACT⁹ TEMPE
HENRICI CAYSHO MAIORIS
ANNO R⁹R⁹ R⁹ICI S^cDI XIX⁹
CAPITULO LXXVIJ⁹

[A]d congregationem nitam Ad Ecc⁹liam S^ci Egidij Norht die Mercu^r in Ebdomada Pat⁹che Anno regni Regis R⁹ici Se^cdi post conq⁹m xix⁹ p Assensum Maioris & viginti quatuor com-burgenies & tocius cōitatis ville Norht illuc tunc congregat⁹ ordinatus est sicut prius Anno p⁹cedenti videlt qd si quis in Cu^r Norht in quocumq; plito ad sec-tam Alicui⁹ querentis defenderit se p legem & tec⁹it legem & ipe defendens vel Alij cum eo legem facientes post modum inquietati vel vexati fuerint in

perpetual loss of the said pledges and distresses and that no man hereafter shall have lying in the Custody of any of the future Bailiffs of Northampton pledges or distresses as is aforesaid beyond the feast of Saint Martin in the winter next after the removal of such bailiffs from their office under the penalty aforesaid

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME
OF HENRY CAYSHO²²⁹ MAYOR
IN THE NINETEENTH YEAR OF
THE REIGN OF KING RICHARD
THE SECOND
CHAPTER LXXVII

[Folio 37b.]

At a congregation held at the Church of Saint Giles at Northampton on Wednesday in Easter week [Wednesday, 5th April, 1396] in the nineteenth year of the Reign of King Richard the Second after the Conquest by the assent of the Mayor and the twenty-four burgesses and the whole commonalty of the town of Northampton there and then assembled it was ordained as before in the year preceding namely that if any one in the court of Northampton in any plea at the suit of any complainant shall defend himself by law and execute the law and the defendant himself or others with him executing the law shall presently be disturbed

²²⁹ Henry Caysho or Cayso was mayor of the town.

the playntiff
to sue the
defendant for
perjury by way
of lawe shall
forfette xxs

Cu^r Xpianitate vel Alibi p^r piurm
vel aliam sectam querente vel
Alⁱius eius noⁱe qd idem querens
debet Amciari in xx^s soluend ad
vsum ville Norht tociens quociens
caus euen^tint infutur

or troubled in the Court of Christianity or elsewhere for perjury or other suit of the complainant or any other in his name that the same complainant ought to be fined in the sum of 20^s to be paid to the use of the town of Northampton as often as such cases shall happen in the future

ORDINAC^o FACT^u P^r STALLAG^u
TEMPE JOHIS SHREWISBURY
MAIORIS ANNO REGNI REGIS
RICI SCDI VICESIMO
CAP^o LXXVII^o

[Folio 38a.]

Ad congregacoem nitam in
ecclia sci Egidij Norht die dñca
px ante fñm Exalta^ois se Crucis
Anno r r Rici s^cdi post conqm
Vicesimo p Assensum Maioris
xxiiij^{or} & tociuscoitatis ville Norht
illic tunc congregat^u. Ordinatus
est qd nullus lib homo Norht vide-
lit ad libtatem eiusdem ville p
Curiam admissus decesso p aliquo
stallo p mercandizis suis sup ven-
dendis. Ordinato soluet ballio
Norht futur nec eoꝝ ministris stal-
lagium Jta tamen qd non plura

that ne
freman shall
pay for one
stall in the
merket so that
ytt bre no
ground

ORDINANCE MADE FOR
STALLAGES IN THE TIME OF
JOHN SHREWISBURY²²⁹ MAYOR
IN THE TWENTIETH YEAR OF
THE REIGN OF KING
RICHARD II
CHAPTER LXXVIII

At a congregation holden in the church of S Giles at Northampton on Sunday next before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross [Sunday, 10th Sept., 1396] in the twentieth year of the reign of King Richard the Second after the Conquest by the assent of the Mayor the 24 and the whole commonalty of the town of Northampton there and then assembled it was ordained that no freeman of Northampton that is to say admitted to the freedom of the said town by Court hereafter for any stall set apart for selling his merchandize shall pay to a future bailiff of Northampton or to their servants stallage But so that he may not have more

²²⁹ A John Shrewisbury, or Shrovesbury, was mayor of the town in 1378-9, 1385-6, 1393-4, 1396-7, 1405-6. Probably father and son. John Shrovesbury was member for the town at the parliament held 13th Edward III.

stalla non heat p̄r vnum stancio
in m̄cato adlocande alijs p̄cupie-
tate reddit⁹ inde hendi sub hac
cum ordinacōne non refrigunt⁹
tales qui hēt plura stalla in m̄cato
ab antiquo terrefixa. De hereditate
vel p̄ inquisitione vnde redditus
solet sōlui regius Atempe quo non
extat memoria siue stallagia inde
prestando

stalls than one to be assigned
in the market for the desire of
getting gain from it While under
this ordinance such men are
not restrained as have more
stalls in the market anciently
fixed by inheritance or for
inquisition whence a rent to the
king is accustomed to be paid
from time immemorial or stallages
from them to be afforded

ORDINACō FACT̄ TEMP̄ WILLI
SHEFFORDE MAIORIS ANNO
REGNI REGIS RIC̄I SCDI
VICESIMO PRIMO

CAPITULO LXXIX⁹ &c

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE
TIME OF WILLIAM SHEFFORDE²³⁰
MAYOR IN THE TWENTY FIRST
YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
KING RICHARD II

CHAPTER LXXIX &c

Nicholas Dalabere²³¹

Et Ad congregatōem hitam
in Ecclesia p̄dict̄ d̄mca p̄r post fest-
tum Exaltaconis sc̄e Crucis Anno
p̄dco p̄ cōm concēsum cōitatis
ville Ordinā fuit & concessum
qd̄ quilibet nouus burgensis Admissus
adlittatem ville Norht erit &
quietus Adie amissionis sue p̄
vnum Annū sequentem qd̄ non
debet poni in iurā nec inqui-
sitionib⁹ inter ptes eo Anno &c

And at a congregation holden
in the church aforesaid on Sunday
next after the feast of the Exalta-
tion of the Holy Cross [Sunday,
16th September, 1397] in the year
aforesaid by the common consent
of the commonalty of the town it
was ordained and agreed that
every new burgess admitted to
the freedom of the town of North-
ampton shall be undisturbed from
the day of his admission for one
year following that he ought not
to be put in juries or inquisitions
between parties in that year &c

[Folio 38b.]

A man
admytted he
shall not serue
the court that
yere

²³⁰ William Shefforde, or Shefford, was mayor of the town in 1397-8, 1398-9, and 1408-9.

²³¹ At the foot of folio 38a is written, in the same hand as the marginal notes, "Nicholas Dalabere." Probably the Town Clerk.

that no
chapmen shall
bring wares
from howse to
house or place
to place to sell

Pr est ex pte Maioris die lune
in festo S^ci Hillarij qd nulli m^o-
cenarij Amodo infra villam Nor^hit
portent pactas tuas nec m^ocandijas
de ostio ad ostium loco Ad locum
seu domo ad domu ad m^ocandijas
suas vendend sub pena xl^d Et
eadem ordinacō p Assensum totius
cōitatis Affirma^t qd firma stet &
stabil die ven^ois ante festum s^ci
Thome Ap^ti Anno r^{egis} Ricⁱ sec^{undi}
vicelimo primo in ecclia s^ci Egidij
Tempe W^{ill}i Shefforde Maioris

It was ordered on the part of
the Mayor on Monday in the
feast of S. Hilary [Monday, 1st
September, 1397] that no chap-
men henceforth within the town
of Northampton shall carry their
packs or wares from inn to inn
from place to place or from house
to house to sell their wares under
a penalty of 40^d And the same
ordinance by the assent of the
whole commonalty is affirmed to
stand firm and established on
Friday before the feast of S^t
Thomas the Apostle [Friday,
14th December, 1397] in the 21st
year of the reign of King Richard
the second in the church of Saint
Giles in the time of William
Shefforde Mayor

ORDINACō FACT^a P^{er} CARNIFIC
TEMPE JOHIS FFOX MAIORIS
ANNO REGNI REGIS RICⁱ
S^cDI XVJ^o

CAPITULO LXXX^o

ORDINANCE MADE FOR THE
BUTCHERS IN THE TIME OF JOHN
FOX²³² MAYOR IN THE
SIXTEENTH YEAR OF KING
RICHARD THE SECOND
CHAPTER LXXX²³³

[Folio 39a.] FFOR REGRATYNG OR FORESTALLYNG OF FFISHE W^{ith}IN THIS TOUN
OR W^{ith}OUT BY THE SPACE OF xxiiij MILES &c

Ordenyd it is alio that no ffisher ne non other man that ffisher
selleth ne bye ffisher of no man that ffisher bryngeth to this touⁿ to
sell tyll that he that the ffisher bryngeth haue holden his chepyng
fullyk the fyrste daie that he comyth into this toun Ne no marchund
of the toun ne Go owt of the touⁿ nygh nor ffar by xxiiij miles from
Norh^{am}pton for to byen ffisher ffisher ne salt ffisher for derison the
touⁿ And if eny therof be ov^{er}takyn be he am^ocyed to the touⁿ at
ij^d And if he do thryes & therof be outakyn forswere he the craste
a yere & a daie &c

²³² John Fox was mayor of the town in 1384-6, 1392-3, 1399-0, and 1400-1.

²³³ Space has been left by the scribe on five pages for this chapter, but the
pages have been filled up by two different hands, the first page of the 16th
century, the remainder of the 15th.

ORDINAC̃O ARTIS CISOX A^o R̃ R̃ HENR
SEXTI XXIIJth

[Folio 99b.]

TO ALL TRUE CHRISTIN MEN this present Wrytyng indented
Aren to be holde ſeen Redde or herun Thomas Deraunt²⁸⁴ Maire
of the toun of Norhampton And xxiiij of his Comburgeis to hym
ſworn. Senden gretynge in god eulaſtyng. Sith in the gen^{al} counſell
of the ſaide toun ther holden the Monday next aftir the feſte of
Seint Andrewe thappoſtell [Monday, 7th December, 1444] in the
xxiiij yere of the reigne of kyng Henry the Syxte Apetycion by
byll to them put and ſhewed for the Comyn profet and honeſte
of the ſaide toun in hit conteyned. Sithe the Tailours Craſte
in the ſaide Toun viſed. full many gentilmen and other people
of oure lorde the Kyng for the ſhapyng of theire clothyng and
of their ſ^untes. And of theire lyvereys dayly comen to the ſame
town. Nevertheles noo Rule ne order put ne is in the ſaid
Craſte betwene thartificers and mynyſtres of the ſaide Craſte. So
that eu^{er}che of them holdyth hym ſelfe as great and hable A
maiter oonas another. Wherefore the ſaide gentilmen and diu^{er}
liege people of our lord Kyngis oft tynes for vnhable ſhapyng
in the meayne tyme aren hurte or made worſe and diſſeived to
her p^{ri}udice. And alſo ſolaunder and detriment to the ſaide toun.
And therfore the ſaide Maire and his Comburgeis by the comyn
Aſſent of the ſaide toun. Wyllen in the ſaide Craſte ordynaunce
and good Rule be putt and ordent for the Weale and honoure
of the ſeid Toun. And to the laude and honoure of god
p^{er}petually to endure And inthat that the ordeinanaunce and good
Rule of the ſaide craſte there more p^{er}litly and faithfully may be
viſed This conſtyticion and ordynaunce ſuyng ſtonde for lawe in
the ſaide toun for euer to endure. So that by the lybtees &
p^{ri}veleges therof by oure lorde the kyng and his p^{er}genytors
graunted and confermed. By the whiche they may Amonge other
lawes Amonge or bytwene them ſelfe make for the good Rule of
the ſame toun to be kepte. In the ffyrſte they choſen and putten
John Clayhunger and John Lylly of the ſaide Craſte Maisters and
ou^{er}ſeers for defaltes in the ſame craſte correctoures for the yere
next ſuyng. And that they and their ſucceſſoures haue an halle
in the which thei may when they wyll call to gedyr all thoo that
vien the ſeid craſte. And thoo called that abſent them ſelfe to
ponyſhe. And there of them ſelfe in like wiſe. ij maisters for the yere

[Folio 40a.]

²⁸⁴ Thomas Deraunt was mayor of the town in 1444-5.

of their owne to be for to choise The whiche shall make othe by fore the Maire of the toun for the tyme beyng in the gen^{al} counsell faithfully to occupie and the saide maisters to haue power all trespassours and defaulters of hem pleyndly to correcte. Alwey excepte that if it happen any contrarie Amonges hem parcially for to sprynge or hadde. hit be put to the maire of the saide toun beyng for the tyme. To amende leest they putt soo great ponyshment to the trespassours. or money of hem wylfully take by extorcion and putte or turne the money to their owne p^{ur}vie. But suche Amendes for defautes and other sumes of money levyed of men of that Crafte Rightfully taken into the honoure of god and for the Welfare of the saide crafte medefully and charytably as it sues Thei putte and dispose And good rule and ordinaunce amonge hem holde as it sues That is to sey that no Taillo^r in the toun forseide nor in the subbarbys ther holde shoppe. But he or that by the maisters of the seide Crafte be conyng and Able in the same and in his man^s for the avayle to the seid Craft soo conably provid. And then in the bygynnyng of setting v^{pe} of his shoppe that he pay to the seid maisters. That is to sey eu^{ry} straunger iij^s iiij^d. And of eu^{ry} other man as in maner of A prentiz within the seide toun in the seide crafte taught xxd of the whiche the maisters the halfe shall delyue to the Maire and Comyn f^unt of the seide town to the vie and profite of the Maire and Comynalte. And the other halfe the Maisters to kepe for the comyn necessaryes & nedis of the seide crafte. And the sustentacon of the ffratⁿite of Seint John Baptiste and the light abowte the Sacrament in the Chirche of Alhalowes of Norhampton to be spendid And that no Taillo^r holde any Chaumbir in the seid Toun ne in the subbarbis therof but allonly for hym selfe his wiffe and his Chyldren p^{ur} clothes to be sewed And yf any Taillo^r be founde in that trespassyng by A moderate mercym^t by the forseide Maisters or the Maire as it is seide for to be taken in the vis & necessarijs forseide evenly or equally to be deuyded vnto the tyme he leve suche Chaumbyr and he be so chastyfed And that hereafterwarde Taillo^{urs} of the seide craft in Norhampton than to be Brethern of the seid ffratⁿite of Seint John Baptiste by the Maisters of the Craft Aboveseide to be receyvid and to gydyr sworne for to take vpon hem the ordinaunce and constiticions of the seide ffratⁿite. And to pay their quartages & to supporte and mayn-

[Folio 40b.]

[Folio 41a.]

tene all other charges of Right to the seide ffratnite longyng In wittness hereof to oon partye of this p̄sent wrytyng endented Ayenste or with the Maisters of the seide Crafte to Abide. Aswell the comyn seall of the seide toun of Norhampton. As the seall of thoffice of the meiryalte of the same toun Aren Appendaunt or putto. And the other partie of the same wrytyng indented Ayenste the seide Meire and xxiiij comburgeis in the Comyn Cheste of the same toun Amonge certeyne Evydence for eue to be kepte vnder the seall of the saide John Clayhunger and John Lylly rest sealed yeven at Norhampton the xx^u day of Auguste the year of the Reign of the seide kyng Henry the syxte Aftyr the conquest xxiiij^u [20th August, 1445]

²³⁵ TEMPE THOME HUNT MAIORIS IN THE TIME OF THOMAS HUNT²³⁶

[Folio 41b.]

JOHIS LEYCETT^a &
THOME POPE BALL A^o RR
E iiiij^u xiiij^o &c

MAYOR JOHN LEYCETTUR
& THOMAS POPE BAILIFFS
IN THE 13TH YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF KING EDWARD IV &c

Item p̄s qd Ricus Knyghtley Armig occupat quandm peciam prati iux le Olde yee ex pte boī & prat^o vocat^o Dustoun mede ex pte Austral et Abuttat ex oppoit^o gardini de Almehowse siitua^t sup pontem Occident^l ex pte Occide ibm et extendit se vsqz pratum dñi de Dalynghon ex pte Orienli que quidm pecia prati p̄fat^o Ricus Knyghteley occupat in p̄iudm ville North Jdeo in miā &c

It is also presented that Richard Knyghtley Esquire occupies a certain piece of meadow near the Old Yee on the north side and a meadow called Dustoun mede on the south side and it abuts opposite the garden of the Almshouses situate over against the West bridge there on the West side and it extends right up to the meadow of the lord of Dalynghon on the east side which piece of meadow aforesaid Richard Knyghteley occupies to the prejudice of the town of Northampton And so in mercy &c

²³⁵ The original handwriting recommences here.

²³⁶ Thomas Hunt was mayor of the town in 1465-6, 1473-4, and 1481-2; and one of the members of the parliament held 28th Henry VI.

TEMPE WILLI AUSTIN
MAIORIS A^o R̄ R̄
E III^u XV^o

Itm p̄s qd Jōhes Abbas moneſſij
Sēi Jacobi iuxta Norht et eiufde
loci conuentus occupant quandm̄
peciam prati iux le Olde yee ex
pte borial et pratum vocat̄ Dus-
tonmede expte Auſtral Et Abuttat
exoſſoto Gardini de Almeſhouſe
ſituaſ ſup pōtem Occide iſm et
extendit ſe vſq3 pratum dñ de
Dalyngton ex pte Orientli Que-
quede pecia prati p̄cripti ptinet
villaſ Norht de iure Et quam
peciam prati p̄latus Abbas et
conuentus occupant in p̄iudm̄
ville Norht Jdeo iſi in miā &c

IN THE TIME OF
WILLIAM AUSTIN²²⁷ MAYOR
IN THE 16TH YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF KING EDWARD IV

It is also presented that John
Abbot of the monastery of St.
James near Northampton and
the convent of the same place
occupy a certain piece of meadow
near the Old Yee on the North
side and a meadow called Duston
mede on the South side And it
abuts opposite the garden of the
almshouse situated over against
the West bridge there and it
extends right up to the meadow
of the lord of Dalington on the
East side which piece of meadow
before written belongs to the
steward of Northampton of right
And which piece of meadow the
abovesaid Abbot and convent
occupy to the prejudice of the
town of Northampton And so in
mercy &c

[Folio 43a.]

ORDINAC̄O P̄ ART TEXTOR TEMPE JOHIS BERNHILL²²⁸ MAIORIS
[ORDINANCE FOR THE WEAVERS' CRAFT MADE IN THE TIME OF
JOHN BERNHILL MAYOR]

Syn that many and dyuſe vnfittynge conſectes and debates
mys rule and vngoodly goũaunce hath long tyme regned in the
Craſte of Engliſhe weuers of Norhampton bitwene the Maiſſirs
and the iorneyemen of the ſeide craſte bi cauſe that good goũaunce
& puyſion haue not be duly ordeyned puided and executed as
good pollitike ruld wolde and requyreth in the ſeide craſte
by fore this tyme Where thurgh grete and notable damage

²²⁷ William Austyn, or Austin, was mayor of the town in 1459-60, 1466-9,
and 1476-7.

²²⁸ John Bernhill or Barnell in 1431-2.

harne late hath be don in dede and lyke is to contynue that god forbede. But remedye be more hastily and effectually bi good provision sette for the wele fare of the seide crafte Wherefore John Bernhill mair of the toun of Norhampton by the wyfe and worthi aviſe and hole diſcretion of his counſell to hym Sworne with full compromiſſion & agrement of all the Engliſhe Maiſters & iorneymen of the ſeide Crafte of the toun of Norhampton beyng bfore hym the monenday [25th August, 1432] in the morne aftir the feſt of Seint Bartilmewe the Apoſtle in the yere of the regne of kyng henri the ſixte aftir the conqueſt the tenth in the Gylde halle of the ſeide toun. Willyng with all his myght power and good entente to queme and pleaſe god oure lorde moſt ſou-eygne. and to avoyde and repele all man⁹ pilles and myſchief, yminent and like to ryſe. And to reform vnite peas and good accorde in the ſeide craft infinitely to endure. Hath ordeyned puided and in this pſente wrytyng included and ſpecified diuſe ordinaunces and articles to be obſerued and kepte fynally among hem without menſyng or addicion to be made but if it be bi aſſent of the mair for the tyme beyng os here aftir is expreſſed and notede

[Folio 42b.]

fiſt that all the Maiſtres and io'neymen of the ſeide crafte that nowe ben and ſhall ben euſy yere the monenday in the morowe aftir paſch day aftir the good and comenable cuſtome of her Craft goo hencſly with her tapers of wax. os it hath be continued of olde Auncyen tyme to the howſe of our lady ſeynt mary de la p^r²⁰⁰ be ſyde Norhampton there offeryng vp here ſeide tapers bfore the ymages of the Trynite and oure lady ther. And to haue aftir her cuſtomable drynkyng and commucacon to gedyr withoute eny confederacies makyng. Cheſyng the ſame day ij Maiſters of the Engliſh houſholders and maiſtres of the ſame crafte. And maiſtres of the io'neymen for the yere bi the adviſe and agrement of the mair beyng for the tyme. Byfore whom thei ſhulbe preſented and ſworne for the good gouernaunce of the ſeide crafte. And alſo cheſyng the ſame day auditours to here the accountes of the maiſtres for the yere howe thei hau diſpended the goodes that thei haue receyued in the tyme of her maitirſhipp the which maiſtres ſhall accounte duly euſy yere at the

[Folio 43a.]

²⁰⁰ Saint Mary de la Pre was an abbey for Cluniac nuns, ſituate in the meadows to the ſouth of Northampton, and in the pariſh of Hardingſtone. Scarcely any of the old building now remains.

daies Assigned bi the comyn assent of the seide crafte. And that euý maister of the seide crafte pay yerely to her light and torches iijd. And euý io'neyman ijd. the which shalbe rered and gedered bi the seide maistres so chosen for the yere aswell the maistres of the io'neymen the which with other goodes that casuelly fallen to the comyn vie shall be putte into aboxe that shal abyde in the warde of the ij. maistres of the maistres of the crafte bi caue of iussiciante. And the keyes of the same box shull remayne and abide in the warde of the ij maistres of io'neymen. So that no deceite shall be had among hem. With the whiche godey so rered and hadde to her comyn vie as well the seide light att the house of Seint Marie de la P^r As the light that hath and shalbe continued bifore the Rode in the body of the chirche of all halewen in Norhampton in the great pace of the same Chirche shalbe founden duly and truly euý yere in the worship of god oure lady and all his seintes withowte gruchyng bi ouñight of the Maire for the tyme. if eny compleynt be made to hym in contric of this ordinaunce.

[Folio 43b.]

And that noon of the seide crafte of the seide toun here astir plete other for eny man⁹ caue in to the tyme that complaynte be made to the Maistres of the seide crafte. And thei to make there of relacion to the maire for the tyme the whiche Maire shall do his deuer to sette hem at rest and good accorde within xv daies next after the compleynt so to hym made. And if not due accorde be made within the seide xv daies. Thanne be hit lesull to the party that syndeth hym aggreued to sewe at the lawe in this Courte accordyng to the libte of the same And that

Conventicley
&c

[Folio 44a.]

noman⁹ mayntenance confederacye conuenticle ne gederyng be made amonge hem in the seide crafte the whiche may turne into disturbaunce of the pees affraying of the kyngis people or indecrece or hynderyng of the comyn phizte. And if it falle that thei wolde haue eny spekyng to gider at eny tyme that thei shuldo it in noo wise withoute the wylle of the meyre for the tyme. The whiche shall haue full knowleche of her entente whethir it be lawfull or not. And also that noon of the seide crafte leue ne hyre ne by non other wyle delyuer to eny man of the cuntre noo man⁹ flaye that longen to the seide crafte.

Servants

And that no maister delyuer ne put away from hym noo s²uaunt if that he haue werke for hym withoute A fourtenyght warnyng

be fore ne no s^uaunt goo fro his Maister withoute warnyng a fourtenyght before And if eny maister sette any suche s^uaunt awerke that hath not gouen his maister a fourthenyght warnyng before that may be proued on hym. he shall pay to the toun of Norhampton xxd. And to the lyte of the seide crafte xxd. And the youⁿeyman that so warneth not his Maister xxd. to the seide toun and to the crafte

And that no straunger of eny othir crafte shall were ne haue eny hoding of the ley^uey of the seide crafte Nor noo suche ly^uey thalbe by the maisters dely^ued to hym vpon the peyne that is conteyned in the statute of geuyng of ly^ues

And also that all tho that weren the ly^uey of the same crafte that be able werkemen shall wyrke in the same crafte byfore eny other straungers. And if ther be any straunge man set on werke by Any of the seide maistres. And he knowe any able and well ruled werkeman of her ly^uey. that hath noo werke he shall pay to the seide toun and the craft xld. euently to be departed bytwene hem os oftyⁿ os he is atteynt of the contrarie [Folio 44b.]

And also noon suche os werith of the seide ly^uey shall in noo wise goo owte of Norhampton to s^uue eny man of the cuntre as longe os eny of the seide maistres haue eny werke for hym and tyll the seide toun of Norht be s^uued. And he that is outaken in the contrary shall pay to the said toun & crafte xld. euently to be departed bitwene hem as oftyⁿ tyme as it so be fallith

And also what ioⁿeyman that shalbe receyved into the ly^uey of the seide crafte of the seide crafte shall pay at his entre iiijd. to the sustinaunce of the torches of the same crafte And more ou^r if that any straunge man come to Norhampton to wyrche he shalbe recyued bi sume of the maistres of the seide Crafte to wirke there a fourthenyght. And be redy paied for his werke. And if he will wyrche lenger he shall paye to the seide lyte ijd or ellis his maister that he wrought wyth shall paye it for hym [Folio 45a.]

And what man of the seide Crafte be noyfed of eny felonye bi surmettyng and suggestion of eny man That man soo noyfed shall not wyrke in the same crafte in the toun of Norhampton tyll he be lawfully excused or founden gylty or noo felonyes

And that the Maistres make relacion to the maire for the tyme of the man too noyted without bannyshyng or fyne taking of the same man

And that noman⁹ ordinaunces ne Articles shull here aftir be ordeyned ne prouyded made ne vsed in the seide Crafte othir than is conteyned and specified above vp the peyne of emprisonment and makyng fyne and raunfom at the kynges wyll. And allso that all the seide io'neyemen shull bere hem and [be]haue hem mekely and in lowly wise Aswell in wordes os in dedes to her maistres that thei seruen. And lesfully obeye hem at all tymes as it fitteth hem well to doo

[Folio 45b.] And if ther be eny maister or io'neyman of the seide Crafte that here Aftyr offendyth or brekyth eny articles or ordenaunce Above conteyned ageyn the forme and the effecte of the same biforn exprested he shall be emprisoned by the mayre of the toun for the tyme xli^a daies. And pay to the seide toun & Crafte Cs. euently to be departed between hem os oftyen os he is atteynte in this mater

defamacion And what man of the seide craft mair⁹ or io'neyman disclaunde or diffame eny man of the seide crafte of vntrowth or falsnes that he shulde done or vsen in the same crafte. And he may not therof bryng forth his Wittnesse & proved and thereof be atteynte and conuycte That thanne pay he to the profyte of the toun of North and to the seide crafte of Wewers xls. evenly to be departed. The whiche ordynaunce w^t othir above seide is graunted and Affirmed by John Hancock²⁴⁰ Meyre of Northampton and hys counsell the monenday [18th May, 1439] next after the ffeest of the Assencion of our lord in the yere of the Reigne of Kyng Henry the fyfte After the conquest xvijth

[Folio 46a.] And allso hit is ordeyned that in the same crafte be chosen .iiij. Auditoures be the advyse & the Aggrement of the hole crafte and of the yo'neyemen whiche Auditoures soo chosen schulle occupie the same office all the terme of her lyffe and yf any of hem deceise thanne the same crafte holly with the yo'neyemen schall

²⁴⁰ John Hancock was mayor of the town in 1438-9.

choise other in her stede And the same auditoures schull neu occupie the office of the maisters of the crafte. And the forseide Maistres of the crafte and of the io'neymen for the yere beyng schul haue ioyntly for her labour xld.

And also euery maister of the seide crafte that wynnott Appere at due summonnes shall paye to the torche lyghte ijti wex os ofte he comyth not withoute that he haue aresonable excusacion. And the io'neymen jti wex to the same torches os ofte os he comyth nott w'oute that he haue Aresonable excusaciou. And allso that the seide Maisters schull gederyn here mony and her duties to the same Crafte longyng bothe the Maisters of the crafte and of io'neymen iij tymes be yere. At the feste of the Nativite of Seynt John Baptiste Mighelmesse. Cristmesse and our lady day in lenton the Annunciacion the whiche ordenance with oþer before-seide ar graunted & Affiermyd by Richard Wemmes²⁴¹ Mair of Norhampton & his counsell the Monday next aftir the feste of Seint John þ^e baptiste [Monday, 26th June, 1441] in the yer of þ^e regn of kyng Herry þe vjth aftir þ^e conquest xixth

And allso it is ordeyned in the same crafte that euery Maister in the seide crafte at his entre into the lyuey of the maistres of the crafte shall paye to the sustynauce of the torches viijd. And euery io'neman at his entre of the lyuey of the io'neymen of the seide crafte shall paye iiijd to the sustynauce of the seide torches. And for asmyche os the seide maisters and io'neymen hau stonde in varyaunce affore this tyme whether the seide money shulde be payed to the sustynauce of the maisters torches or of the Jorneymens torches. Nowe therfore the seide maisters and io'neymen by her comon Assent be Accorded and agreed in this Wyse for eumore þ^e all the seide money shalbe putt in comon Aswell to the sustynauce of the torches of the Maisters os to the torches of the io'neymen w'oute eny seuuauce. And that the seide maisters and io'neymen shall make her torches alwey to gydur in comon And that thei put all the seide money into her boxe eu os is it gederyd. And that they haue ordeyned a cofer to leye all the seide torches Inne The whiche cofer shall haue ij lokkys of the which the maisters shall haue oon key. And the

²⁴¹ Richard Wemmes or Wemys was mayor of the town in 1421-2, and 1440-1.

wardens of the io'neyemen Another key. And eu̇y maister & his wyffe that ben in the lyūey at her byryng shall haue iiij torches. And eu̇y yo'neman that ben in the lyūey at her byryng shall haue iiij torches. And eu̇y jo'neyman that is not in the lyūey shall haue ij torches at his byryng And eu̇y chylde of hers at his byryng ij torches. The which ordeynance w^t other above seide ar graunted and assermed bi William Russhden³⁴³ Mair than of Northampton and his counsell in the Guyhald ther the Monday next astir the cloſe of Paſche [Monday, 1st April, 1448] the yere of Kyng Herry the Sixte astir the conquest xxvj And ther put in the regestre of recorde euer for to abyde for fremes [strangers] doing her deyes

ORDINAC̃O FACT̃ P̃ EXTRANEIS FFNCIPLEGIS TEMPE THOME
SALE³⁴³ MAIORIS ANNO RR H vj^o xj^o

[ORDINANCE CONCERNING STRANGERS OBTAINING THEIR FREEDOM]

We pore comons besēche you enterly with all our hertis that no man fromhens forwarde be receyued in to oure ffraunches. But he refyaunt within p^r toun .or ellis that he be att loot and scott at all tymes as we ffraunchised men bene. fluthermore as touchand hem that hau be receyued into oure ffraunchise or shul be here Astyr. That it be liefull to the bailliffe or her officers for to somon hem at her Jnnes or at her Shoppes sith in the toun lawfully for to appere at oure courte to passe oñ queitis betwene party and party .or ellis to make fyne with the Bailliffes astir the custom of the toun as we ffraunchised men that be refeyaunt done. And alio that thei be tūmed at the same places forſeid for to appere at all tymes at oure sembles for to bere the charges of the ffyftene or othir charges nedful to the toun forſeyde. As we ffraunchised men done And for her mercymētis so losse of record fyne so made or charges of the toun astir the custome not paied liefull to the maire and bailliffs or her officers in the same Jnnes and Shoppes or in other places within the toun her goodes and Catellis so distreyne and to with holde astir the custom of the toun tyll the tyme that the be payed of her Am^pcymētis or dutees so beyng be hynde

[Folio 47a.]

[Folio 47b.]

franchised me
dwelling out of
the town to be
enliyd to all
things as they
that dwell
in the town.

³⁴³ William Russhden was mayor of the town in 1447-8, and 1455-6.

³⁴³ Thomas Sale in 1442-3, 1423-4, 1432-3, and 1433-4.

ORDINACIO FACTA PER MAIORIBUS
NON EXISTENT BURGENSIBUS
PARLIAMENT TEMPE
JOHIS SPRIGY MAIORIS
ANNO H VIth XV^o

CUM Johannes Sprigy Maior
Northampton in Ecclesia Sancti Egidij
ville predicte die lune proxima post festum
Sancti Bartholomaei apostoli Anno regni Henrici
sexti post conquestum quintodecimo
colloquim generale Christi [Christi]
favente gratia cum suis viginti &
quatuor Comburchensibus & civitate
ville predictae illic iniri ordinasset
certis & necessariis causis pro utilitate
ville predictae prefatum maiorem
urgentibus. Prouisum & ordinatum
existit in causa tam ex consensu &
assensu predicti Maioris & viginti
& quatuor Comburchensium predictorum quoniam
predictae Civitatis ville Northampton predictae.
petitione speciali ex parte Civitatis
predictae ibidem preuia & desiderata.
Videlicet quod quilibet Maior ville Northampton
qui officium Maioratus ville predictae per unum annum integrum
occupavit & eundem annum plenarie
complevit.

ORDINANCE MADE FOR MAYORS
NOT BEING BURGESSES
IN THE TIME OF PARLIAMENT.
JOHN SPRIGY²⁴⁴ MAYOR IN
THE 15TH YEAR OF HENRY VI

When John Sprigy mayor
of Northampton in the church of
St Giles of the town aforesaid on
Monday next after the feast of
St Bartholomew the Apostle
[Monday, 26th August, 1437] in
the 15th year of the reign of
King Henry the Sixth after the
Conquest had ordered a general
conference to be there entered
upon by the gracious favour of
Christ with his 24 fellow-bur-
gesses and the commonalty of
the town aforesaid certain and
necessary reasons for the advan-
tage of the town aforesaid the
aforesaid mayor urging It was
provided and ordained among
other things thereto leading the
way and desired as well by the
consent and assent of the afore-
said mayor and the 24 fellow
burgesses aforesaid as at the
special petition of the said com-
monalty of the town of North-
ampton aforesaid on the part of
the commonalty aforesaid Viz.,
that every mayor of the town of
Northampton who shall have
occupied the office of mayor of
the town aforesaid for one whole
year and shall have fully com-
pleted the same year Hencefor-

[Folio 48a.]

No ma that
hath ben mayor
shal be mayor
wthin vij yeres.

²⁴⁴ John Sprigy was mayor of the town in 1425-6, 1426-7, 1428-9, and 1436-7.

Deceſſo non ſic in ꝑdci maioratus officium electus neqꝫ denuo in electione poſitus vſqꝫ in finem ſeptem Annoꝝ extunc ꝑꝛ ſequenſ & plenāꝝ Completoꝝ Quequidem ordinaçō & inſtitꝫ in Colloquio ꝑdco inſ ꝑſat Maiorem Comburgenſ & Coitatem diligenſ tractat atqꝫ ſagaci et mutuo conſilio inſ eoſdm diſcuſſa ſtabilita & ratificata iꝑm ꝑmanere conſiſtunt. atqꝫ in Regiſtro Cuꝛ ville Norhamptoꝝ inſ cetera memoranda Regiſtrata temporibꝫ ꝑpetuis duratuꝛ &c

ward [shall] not ſo [be] elected to the office of the aforeſaid mayoralty nor again put in election up to the end of ſeven years then next following and fully completed Which ordinance and inſtitution in the conference aforeſaid between the aforeſaid mayor fellow - burgeſſes and commonalty being diligently treated and with wiſe and mutual counſel between them diſcuſſed eſtabliſhed and ratified there they agree that it ſhall be permanent and being regiſtered in the register of the court of the town of Northampton among other memoranda ſhall endure for ever &c

[Folio 48b.]

ORDINAÇO FACT TEMPE
JOHIS BALDESWEILL MAIORIS
ANNO RR H VI^{ta} XX^o
ꝑ SECRETO CONſILIO MAIORIS

Nota
h v^{ba}.

Memorandum qd die lune ꝑꝛ
Ante feſtum S^ce Margarete virgin
Anno regni Regis Henrici ſexti
poſt conqꝫ vicesimo Ad huſtenḡ
ten^{ti} in Guyhald ville Norhamptoꝝ
ꝑ diſcreſſionem & conſiliū Joꝝis
Baldefwell tunc iꝑm Maioris
Robti

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME
OF JOHN BALDESWEILL ²⁴⁶
MAYOR IN THE 20TH YEAR OF
THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VI
FOR THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF THE
MAYOR.

Memorandum that on Monday
[16th July, 1442] next before the
feast of St Margaret the Virgin
in the 20th year of the reign of
King Henry the Sixth after the
Conquest at a Huſtings held at
the Guildhall of the town of
Northampton by the diſcretion
and counſel of John Baldeswell
then mayor of the ſame Robert

²⁴⁶ John Baldeswell was mayor of the town in 1441-2.

Tanfield Recordat^r Willel^m Russ-
den sen^r Henric Stones Johis Han-
cok Willel^m Russden jun^r Ac alioz
qm plurimoz de viginti quatuor
comburgenfibz suis in domo consu-
lari ibm in^r cet^a concordat^r est &
stabilitum qd si Aliquis de viginti
quatuor comburg^r vel Aliquis
Alius tam ad consilium Maioris
qm ad secretu consiliu^m d^{ce} ville
Norhampton^m Adiu^rat^r scandalizauit
vel Alicui narrauerit quoquomodo
Aliquam rem vel aliquam causam
in^r eos adinuicem coic^atam in
Aliquo secreto coⁿsilio seu aliquod
verbum in d^{co} secreto consilio
pbat^r siue dictu^m Et sup hoc conuic-
tus fuit coram maiore & suo consilio
. Prima vice incurrat penam xls.
soluende ad vsu^m & p^rficiu^m cam^{pe}
d^{ce} ville sine Aliqua p^rdonat^oe. Et
si s^{ec}da vice de eod^m conuictus fuit
coram maiore et suo consilio in-
currat sili^r penam Centum solidoz
soluende ad vsu^m & p^rficiu^m
cam^{pe} d^{ce} ville sine aliqua p^rdon-
at^oe. Et vltra ad expellende &
deprivande eum qui tali^r deli-
querit. A d^{co} consilio maioris
Ac etiam a secreto consilio d^{ce}
ville Norhampton^m quousq^z Maior
d^{ce} ville Norhampton^m qui p temp

Tanfield recorder William Russ-
den Senr Henry Stones John
Hancock William Russden Junr
and many others of their 24
fellow-burgesses in the Council-
house there among other things
it was agreed and established
that if any one of the 24 fellow-
burgesses or any other person
sworn as well to the council of
the mayor as to the privy council
of the said town of Northampton
shall have spread abroad or told
to anyone in any way any matter
or any cause communicated
amongst them mutually in any
privy council or any word in the
said privy council tried or spoken
And shall have been convicted
of this before the mayor and his
council The first time shall
incur a penalty of 40s. to be paid
to the use and profit of the
chamber of the said town without
any pardon And if a second
time he shall have been convicted
of the same before the Mayor
and his council he shall in like
manner incur a penalty of 100s.
to be paid to the use and profit
of the chamber of the said town
without any pardon And besides
to the expelling and depriving
him who shall have committed
such delinquency from the said
council of the mayor and also
from the privy council of the
said town of Northampton until
the mayor of the said town of
Northampton for the time being

No counfayler
open the coun-
saill of the
maior.

[Folio 49a.]

fuit p discretionem & Auifamentū
fui confilij melius Auifiat fuit &c

by the discretion and advice of
his council shall have been better
advised &c

ORDINACO FACT ARTIS CISOX

TEMPE THOME DERAUNT

MAIORIS ANNO RR H VJ^u

VNIU⁹SIS XPI FFIDELIBZ hoc
presens scriptum indentatum in-
specturis visuris vel audituris
Thomas Deraunt maior ville
Norhampton Ac viginti quatuor
Comburgentessuisibi iurati Saltm
in dno sempitnam Cum in con-
filio gen⁹ali dce ville Norhampton
idm ten⁹ die lune px post festum
Sci Andree apt Anno regni
Regis Henrici sexti post conqm
vicefimo t^{io} p quendam petition-
em p bilam eis appositam & mon-
stratam p coi plicuo & honestate
dce ville in se continentem qd cum
ars Cifloris in dca villa vbi gen⁹osi
& alij ligei dñi Regis qm plurimi
p aptatione vestm suaz & suoz s⁹-
uientu ac libta⁹ suaz in dies con-
fluant ad eandem nulla . tamen

[Folio 49b.]

ORDINANCE MADE FOR THE CRAFT OF TAILORS IN THE TIME OF THOMAS DERAUNT²⁴⁶

MAYOR IN THE YEAR OF
THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VI.

To all the faithful of Christ
who shall inspect see or hear
this present indented writing
Thomas Deraunt mayor of the
town of Northampton and his
24 fellow-burgesses sworn to
him Health in the Lord ever-
lasting Whereas in a general
Council of the said town of
Northampton there holden on
Monday [7th December, 1444]
next after the feast of St. Andrew
the Apostle in the 23rd year of
the reign of Henry the Sixth
after the Conquest by a certain
petition by bill submitted and
shown to them for the common
profit and honesty of the said
town containing in itself that
whereas the craft of tailors in
the said town where gentlemen
and other lieges of the Lord
King many in number for the
fitting of their clothes and those
of their menservants and maid-
servants from day to day betake
themselves to the same but yet

²⁴⁶ Thomas Deraunt was mayor of the town in 1444-5.

regla siue ordo posita constat in dicta arte in^l artifices ministros q³ artis illius. Sed qd qu^l eos ita grandem & habilem reputat se magr^m sicut & alium. Qua ppter multociens d^ei gen^oosi diu^lsi q³ ligei d^m Regis p in habili ap^tacione sunt in^l dum deliorati & decepti in eo³ pⁱudici^m d^ee q³ ville scandalum & detrimentum. Idcirco p^deus Maior & d^ei Comburgenses sui ex assensu Coitatis dicte ville Volentes in d^ea arte ordinem & bonam regulam appon^e & ordinare p comodo & honore d^ee ville & ad Dei laudem & honorem imp^pm durat^l Per hoc qd ordo siue bona regula d^ee Artis itm pfectius & fidelius ex^oceat^l. hanc constitu^oem & ordinat^oem subsequentes statuunt p lege in d^ea villa imp^pm durat^l eo qd p lib^tates & pⁱuilegia illis p d^m regem & pgenitores suos concessa & confirmata p que possunt in^l alia leges in^l eos condere p d^ee ville regimine conseruande. In pⁱmis eligunt & pon^lut Jo^hem Cleyhunger & Jo^hem Lylie artis p^de^e Magros & supⁱuiores ac defectu^l in ead^m correctores

no rule or positive order exists in the said craft between the masters and journeymen of that craft But that each one of them esteems himself as good and skilful a master as another Wherefore oftentimes the said gentlemen and divers lieges of the Lord King for unskilful fitting are sometimes injured and deceived to their prejudice and the scandal and loss of the said town Therefore the aforesaid mayor and the said fellow-burgesses of his by the assent of the commonalty of the said town wishing in the said craft to lay down order and good rule and to ordain [them] to endure for ever for the advantage and honour of the said town and to the praise and honour of God And by this means that the order or good rule of the said craft may be there more perfectly and faithfully exercised they appoint this constitution and ordinance following to endure in the said town as a law for ever because that by the liberties and privileges conceded and confirmed to them by the Lord King and his progenitors by which they are able among other things to establish laws among themselves for the government of the said town to be kept First they elect & set John Cleyhunger & John Lylie masters and supervisors of the said craft and correctors of

[Polio 50aa]

p Anno p̄ sequen̄. Et qd ip̄i & successores sui h̄eant aulam suam in qua pot̄unt cum velint omnes dictam artem in villa p̄d̄ca ex^ocentes conuocare & convocatos absentes punire Et it̄m de seip̄is duos huiusmodi maḡos p̄ anno ab elēctione sua p̄ mansuros eliḡe qui Sacramentū coram Maiore d̄ce ville prestabunt in consilio gen̄ali fidelit̄ occupare. Et qd potestatem h̄eant omnes transgressores & eoꝝ defectus plenā corrigend̄. Saluo semp qd si contingat contrōrsiam in̄ eos ptialit̄ suboriri tenend̄ illam ad maiorem in villa p̄dict̄ existent p̄ tempe diūtat̄ emandand̄. Et ne punīones nimis gr̄ues ponant delinquentibꝫ vel pecuniā ab eis voluntat̄ extorqueāt in lucrum suū p̄p̄m conuertend̄. Sed emandas p̄ delictis & alias sumas ab homibꝫ artis illius iuste capt̄ in Dei laudem & eiusdem Artis melioratōem pie & meritorie put̄ sequit̄ tribuāt & disponāt ac reglam & ordinem in̄ eos teneant sequen̄. videt̄ qd nullus cissor

abuses in the same for the year next following And that they and their successors may have their hall in which they shall be able when they choose to call together all persons exercising the said craft in the town aforesaid and to punish those who when called together absent themselves And there to elect out of themselves two masters of this sort to remain for a year from their election who shall take an oath before the mayor of the said town in a general council to occupy [their office] faithfully And that they may have power of fully correcting all transgressors and their defects. Saving always that if it shall happen that a dispute among them should arise it must be transferred to the mayor in the town aforesaid for the time being to be set right And they must not inflict too heavy punishments upon delinquents or deliberately extort money from them to be applied to their own proper gain But they must assign and dispose the amends for faults and other sums justly taken from the men of that craft to the praise of God and the amelioration of the same craft piously and duly as follows and must hold the following rule and order amongst them namely that no tailor shall

teneat Shopam in villa p̄dēa nec in suburbijis eiusdem priuſqm p̄ Magros Artis p̄dēe sciens & habilis in eadm & suis moribz p̄ vtilitate dēe ville idoneus sit probatus . Et tunc in principio erectionis Shope sue soluat eiſdem maḡris scitit quitt extraneus tres solidos & quatuor denaſ Et quitt alius more apprenticij infra villam p̄dēam in eadem eruditus viginti denaſ quoz ipi maḡri medietatem majori & cōi s̄uienti ville p̄dēe ad vſum proficium eozdem Maioris et Cōitatis libabunt . Ac aliam medietatem eiſdm maḡris retinebunt p̄ cōibz neceſſarijs & negotijs eiusdem artis . Ac ad ſuſtentationis fraſnitatis S̄ci Johis Baptiſte & luminis circa Eukariſtiam in Ecclia Oīni Scoz Norht expendendē . Et qd nullus Ciſſor teneat cam⁹am in p̄dēa villa nec ī ſuis ſurburbijs p̄t qm p̄ ſui ipius ac vx⁹is & pūoz

have a shop in the town aforesaid or in the suburbs of the same before he be approved by the masters of the craft aforesaid learned and skilful in it and by his character fit for the utility of the said town And then at the beginning of the erection of his shop he shall pay to the same masters that is to say every stranger three shillings and four pence And every other person trained in the manner of an apprentice within the town aforesaid in the same twenty pence whereof the masters themselves shall deliver a moiety to the mayor and common serjeant of the town aforesaid to the use [and] profit of the same mayor and commonalty And the other moiety they shall retain to the same masters for the common necessities and businesses of the same craft and to be expended for the sustentation of the fraternity of S^t John the Baptist and of the light about the Eucharist in the Church of All Saints²⁴⁷ at Northampton And that no tailor shall have a chamber in the aforesaid town or in its suburbs except for the making of his own private

[Folio 30b.]

²⁴⁷ All Saints' church was, and still is, the principal church in the town. The Hospital of St. John Baptist was founded in 1137; the remains of the buildings are in Bridge Street.

suos proprijs vestibz consuende.
 Et si aliquis Cistfor repiat in hoc
 delinquens p moderatam miam p
 deos magros aut maiorem vt pferit
 assedende. Et in viibz necessarijs
 pdcis equalit diuidende. donec
 huiusmodi cam⁹ amiserit casti-
 get. Et qd omnes imposum ad-
 uenientes Cistores artis pdee infra
 villam Norhampton in Confres
 dee ffranitatis Sci Johis Baptiste
 p Magros artis supradce sint re-
 cepti parit & iurati ad subeundm
 ordinatoibz & constitutonibz eius-
 dem ffratnitatis & ad soluende
 quartagia sua & alia on^a eidem
 ffratnitati de conf⁹ribz eiusdem
 exconsuetudine debita In cuius
 rei testimonium pti huius Scripti
 indentati penes Magros artis
 pdcte remanenti. Tam sigillum
 Coe pdee ville Norhampton qm
 Sigillum officij maioratus eiusdem
 ville sunt appen^s. Alia vero ps
 eiusdem scripti indentati penes
 pdcos maiorem & xxiiij^m Combur-
 gens in Coi Cista eiusdem ville in
 cetaseuidenciasimppm custodiend
 sub sigillis deoz Johis Cleyhunger
 & Johis Lylye magoz

[Folio 31a.]

clothes and those of his wife
 and sons And if any tailor be
 found a delinquent herein he
 must be punished by a moderate
 penalty to be assessed by the
 said masters or mayors as is
 said before and to be equally
 divided in the necessary uses
 aforesaid until he shall have got
 rid of a chamber of this sort
 And that all tailors of the craft
 aforesaid hereafter coming with-
 in the town of Northampton
 shall be received on equal terms
 among the brethren of the said
 fraternity of St John the Bap-
 tist by the masters of the
 craft aforesaid and be sworn to
 submit to the ordinances and
 customs of the same fraternity
 and to pay their quarterages
 and other charges customarily
 due to the same fraternity from
 the brethren of the same In
 testimony whereof to the part
 of this indented writing re-
 maining with the masters of
 the craft aforesaid the common
 seal of the aforesaid town of
 Northampton as well as the
 seal of the office of mayor of
 the same town are appended
 And the other part of the same
 indented writing under the seals
 of the said John Cleyhunger &
 John Lylye the masters afore-
 said remains and is consigned to
 be kept by the aforesaid mayor
 and 24 fellow-burgesses in the

pdcoz residet consignat. Dat Nor-
hampton vicelimo die Mensis
Augustij . Anno regni Regis
Henrici sexti post conquestum
vicelimo tertio &c

common chest of the same town
among other evidences for ever
Dated at Northampton on the
20th day of the month of August
[Friday, 20th August, 1445] in
the 23rd year of the reign of
King Henry the Sixth after the
Conquest &c

Henricus dei gr̃a Rex Anglie
& francie & dominus Hibnie
Omnibz ad quos p̃sentes lit̃e pue-
nint Saltm̃ Inpexim^r quendam
petitionem nobis in p̃senti parla-
mento ñro p coitatem regni ñri
Angl in eodem parlamento ex-
hiben p Maiore & Coitate ville ñre
Norhampton exhibi in hec ṽba

Henry by the grace of God
King of England and France and
Lord of Ireland to all to whom
these present letters shall come
greeting We have inspected a
certain petition exhibited to us
in our present parliament by the
commonalty of our Kingdom of
England in the same parliament
existing for the mayor and com-
monalty of our town of North-
ampton in these words

[Folio 51b.]

Priount les Mair & Coialte de la
ville de Norhampton q̃ pleasé a
les ditz t̃iages cōes deprier a Roi
ñre Ysouain s^r dordiner & g^runtier
p assen des s^rs sp̃uelx & temp-
orelx & toutz les ditz Cōes a cest
p̃sent plement assemblez ac les ditz
Mair & Coialte & a lour succes-
so's a toutz io's q̃ le Mair de dēe
ville qorest & chescun Mair de
mesme la ville aps pur le temps
esteant p'ra loiaement compeller &
constrein chescun p̃sone de quele
estat ou condicion q̃ il soit q̃ est

The mayor and commonalty of
the town of Northampton pray
that it may please the said most
learned commons to pray the
king our most sovereign lord to
ordain and grant by the assent
of the lords spiritual and tem-
poral and all the said commons
at this present parliament as-
sembled to the said mayor and
commonalty and their successors
for ever that the mayor of the
said town that now is and each
mayor of the same town after-
wards for the time being may
lawfully compel and constrain
every person of what estate or
condition he may be that is

seifi dascuny mees ou teñt on son demefne come de franc teñt buttant sur ascun haut chemyn ou Rue du dce ville pur nouelment pauer & aps tout temps buſſonable repareler cest alſauer du le frount du tiel mees ou teñt iefqz al my del chanell du tiel chemyn ou Rue & en laydur du lune corner du tiel mees ou teñt iefqz a lautre Corner du meſme le mees Et q̄ le Mair dce de ville p' le temps eſteant q̄nt il veye q̄ meſtier ſrra . enquerge p enqueſt des bones & loialx gentz de meſme la ville de ceux que soient defectiues de la reparacion aũt dce & sur ceo face garn⁹ les ditz defectours defair lour dce reparacion Et ascun pſone eſteant seifi en ascun mees ou teñt en la fourme aũt dce deins la dce ville & il ou son fermour en sa abſence soit garny p le Mair du dce ville p' le temps eſteant pur nouelment pauer ou repareler en temps buſſonable enũs son mees ou teñt en le man⁹ ſuiſdit & ne paue mye nouelment ne repareler deins trois moys aps tiel garniſſement fait qadonqes bien liſe a le Mair du dit ville p' le temps eſteant p lauctorite ſuiſdit a diſtremer & ſuffi⁹ diſtreſſe

[Folio 52a.]

seized of any messuage or tenement in his demesne as of freehold abutting on any high road or street of the said town to pave anew and afterwards at all times needful to repair that is to say from the front of such messuage or tenement as far as the middle of the channel of such road or street and in width from the one corner of such messuage or tenement as far as the other corner of the same messuage And that the mayor of the said town for the time being when he perceives that it is needful shall enquire by the quest of good and loyal folk of the same town concerning those which are defective of repair as aforesaid and on that to cause to summon the said defaulters to make their said repairs And each person being seized of any messuage or tenement in the form before said within the said town of and he or his tenant in his absence being warned by the mayor of the said town for the time being to pave anew or repair in times needful about his messuage or tenement in manner abovesaid and does not pave newly to the middle nor repair within three months after such warning allowed then it shall be lawful for the mayor of the said town for the time being by the authority abovesaid to distrain and sufficient distress to

reteinier ielsq; a taunt q̄ tiel pament soit nouelment fait ou reparelle ou aut̄ment q̄ adonques bien life a le Mair du d̄ce [ville] p' le temps esteant p meime lauctorite pur defender la rent du tiel mees ou teñt en les mains de le fermour du tiel mees ou teñt & cell rent issint defendu loialment leuer & p̄ndre & oueti q̄ meisme le rent faire ou repareler tiel pament come deuaunt est dit. In sp̄xim^a etiam indorfamentum eiusdem petitōis in eod̄m parlamento n̄ro s̄c̄m in hec v̄ba Soit fait come il est des̄ire p' les hautes chemyns & rues du d̄ce ville ensuant; cestafauoir pur les hautes chemyns de porte du d̄ce ville en le North tanqal pount appelle Saint Thomas Brigge en le South & pur la chemyn del porte en le West tanq̄ a la porte en le Este & auxi pur les rues appellez Berewardestrete Saint Gilestrete Swynwellstrete Kyngeswellestrete Saint Maritstrete Saint Martynstrete & le chemyn appelle le Marketplace Issint q̄ nully q̄i ad aīcun mees ou teñt abuttant au dit chemyn appelle Market-place ne soit cōstreint ou compelle p force de ceste ordinaunce de faire de nouell ou repairer aīcun pauement en le man^r suifd̄ce deūnt son dit mees ou teñt enī abuttant

retain until that such pavement shall be newly made or repaired or otherwise that then it shall be very lawful for the mayor of the said [town] for the time being by the same authority to restrain the rent of such messuage or tenement in the hands of the tenant of such messuage or tenement and such rent thus restrained lawfully to raise and take and also with the same rent to make or repair such pavement as before is said We have likewise inspected the endorsement of the same petition made in this our parliament in these words Let it be done as is desired for the high roads and streets of the said town following that is to say for the high roads from the gate of the said town in the North as far as the bridge called Saint Thomas' Bridge in the South and for the road from the gate in the West as far as the gate in the East and also for the streets called Bereward street Saint Giles' street Swynwell street Kingswell street Saint Mary's street Saint Martin's street and the road called the Market place So that no one who has any messuage or tenement abutting on the said road called Market place shall be constrained nor compelled by force of this ordinance to make anew or repair any pavement in the manner abovesaid before his said messuage or tenement thus abutting

[Folio 56b.]

sur la dœ marketplace outre xxx
pees en longure del frount de son
dit mees ou teñt et q̄ le remenant
de meſme le Market place soit
pauec & repairee del cœe coſtage
de tout la ville de inſidœ. Nos autem
tenores petitionis & doriamenti
p̄dcoꝝ ad requisitionem Maioris &
Cõitatis ville n̄re p̄dœe tenore p̄-
ſentm̄ duximus exemplificand. In
cuius rei teſtimõiu has tras n̄ras
feri fecimus patentes Teſt Humfr̄
Duce Glouceſſr̄ Cuſtode Angl̄
apud Weſtmonaſt̄ium xvij die
Marcij Anno regni n̄ri nono

Prestwyk.

Henricus Dei gr̄a Rex Anglie &
francie & Dominus Hiſpanie Om-
nibꝫ ad quos p̄ſentes lre pueniunt
ſaltm̄ In ſpexim⁹ quendam pe-
titionem nob̄ in p̄ſenti parla-
mento n̄ro p̄ Cõitatem regni n̄ri
Angl̄ in eodem parlamento exiſten-
p̄ maiore & Cõitate ville n̄re Nor-
hampton exhibiunt in hec v̄ba.

[Folio 53a.]

on the ſaid Market place over
thirty feet in length from the
front of his ſaid meſſuage or
tenement and that the remainder
of the ſaid Market place ſhall
be paved and repaired at the
common coſt of the whole town
aforeſaid We have moreover
at the request of the mayor and
commonalty of our town afore-
ſaid cauſed to be now drawn
up this tranſcript of the petition
and endorſement aforeſaid held
by the tenor of theſe preſents In
witneſſ whereof we have cauſed
theſe our letters to be made patent
Witness Humphrey ²⁴⁸ Duke of
Glouceſter Guardian of Eng-
land at Weſtminſter the 18th
day of March [Fifth Sunday in
Lent, 18th March, 1431 ²⁴⁹] in the
ninth year of our reign

Prestwyk

Henry by the grace of God
king of England and France and
Lord of Ireland to all to whom
theſe preſent letters ſhall come
Greeting We have inſpected a
certain petition exhibited to us
in our preſent parliament by the
commonalty of our kingdom of
England in the ſame parliament
exiſting for the mayor and com-
monalty of our town of North-
ampton in theſe words

²⁴⁸ "Humphrey de Lancaster," the fourth ſon of Henry IV., became Guardian and Lieutenant of England in 1417, and Conſtable of Rockingham Caſtle in 1427. He died in 1446.

²⁴⁹ In the exemplification of this Act, now with the muniments of the borough, hereinbefore mentioned on page 74, the date 1430 originally indorſed was incorrect

The Maire and Cōmynalte of the town of Norhampton haue desirid that it myght please the kyngis grace to ordeyn and graunt by thassent of the lordes spuell and Tempall and all the Cōmyns at the p̄sent parliament assēbled. To the Maire and Cōialte and to their succellours for eũ. That the Maire of the same town that now is And eũy Maire of the same Town astir for the tyme beyng May lawfully compelle & constrayn eũy parson of what estate or condycion he be of. Which is seased of any mese or Teñt in his demene as of free holde buttyng vppon any hye waye of the kyng of the same Town to pave newe And astir at all tymes nedefull repayre. That is to sey ffrom the ffronte of the same Mese or Teñt vnto the mydis or the Chanell of the saide highe wey. And in brede from the oon Corner of the howse vnto that other. And that the maire of the town for the tyme beyng when nede shall require shall enquer by an quest of good and lawfull folkis of the same town of them that byn defectyve of their Repacion asofsaide And vppon that to Warne the same defectours to make the repacon. And if any p̄son so so beyng seased of any Mees or Teñt in the forme Aforeseide within the saide Town. And he or his ffermour in his Absence be warnyd by the maior of the same town for the tyme beyng To pave and repaire the pawment in tyme of nede Ayn theire owne mees or teñt in man^r Aboueseide. And wilnot make Reparacion w̄in iij Monythes astir this warnyng hadde That than it shalbe lesfull to the Maire for the tyme beyng by the Auctorite aboueseide to distreyn that distresse to with holde till suche tyme As the same pawment be suffyciently repaired & made. Or ellis that the Maire by the same Auctorite may Restreyn and kepe the Rent of the same mees or teñt And with the same rent to repayre sufficiently the same pawment. In like man^r it was graunted for theise highe weyes. That is to sey from the North yate vnto Seynt Thomas Brygge. And from the Weste yate vnto the Est yate. And allso Berwardstrete Seint Gyles strete Swynwellstrete Kyngeswellstrete Seint Mary strete Seint Martyn strete. And the wey called the Merket place. So that noo man that haue eny mees or teñt buttyng vppon the Highe Wey called the Merket place be not confreyned nor compeled be the force of this same ordeynauce to make newe or repaire any pawment in the maner Aboueseide Affore his mees or teñt soo Abuttyng vppon the seide m^rket place by yonde xxxⁱⁱ fote of lenght from the ffront of the same mees or teñt. And that the Remnaunt of the same merket place be paved & repayred of the Cōmen coste of the toun Afforseide

[Folio 53b.]

for pavyng
of the stretes

[Folio 54a.]

Nos autem tenores petitionis & in
dorsamenti ꝑdcoꝝ ad requisitionem
Maioris & Cōitatis ville nꝛi ꝑdce
tenore ꝑsentm̄ duxim⁹ exemplifi-
cande In cuius rei testimoniū
has tras nꝛas fieri fecimus patentes
Teste Humfrō duce Gloucestꝛ Cus-
tode Angt apud Westm̄ xvij die
Marcij Anno regni nꝛi nono

Prestwyk

Ex' p Willelm̄ Prestwik
& Thomam Haseley Clicos

We have moreover at the request
of the mayor and commonalty of
our town aforesaid caused to be
now drawn up this transcript of
the petition and endorsement
aforesaid held by the tenor of these
presents In witness whereof we
cause these our letters to be made
patent Witness Humfrey Duke
of Gloucester Guardian of Eng-
land at Westminster the 18th
day of March [Fifth Sunday in
Lent, 18th March, 1431] in the
ninth year of our reign

Prestwyk

Drawn out by William Prest-
wick and Thomas Haseley Clerks

[Folio 54b.]

Quia Maioris Ville Northampton
in Offic Maioratus eoꝝ ad gꝛues
expens & custos indies deducunt⁹
iuxta illoꝝ feoda illis Allocated &
assignat⁹ ꝑ Anno sui officij que
quidem feod constant de cꝛto put
ex antiquo tempor⁹ plene patet.
Hinc est Memorand qd die Venꝛis
ꝑꝛ ante festum Scti Dionisij mꝛis
Anno ꝛꝛ Henrici sexti post con-
questum xxvijº Ad colloquium tent⁹
in Guyhald iꝛm Gilberto Litstere
eiusdem ville Maior Ac Johe Peny
& Willelmo Grene tunc iꝛm ballis

Whereas the mayors of the town
of Northampton in their office of
mayor are daily led into grievous
expenses and costs beyond their
fees allotted and assigned to
them for the year of their office
which fees are fixed without
change as from ancient time is
quite clear therefore it is to be
remembered that on Friday [4th
October, 1448] next before the
feast of St. Denys the martyr in
the 27th year of the reign of
King Henry the Sixth after the
Conquest At a conference holden
in the Guildhall there Gilbert
Litstere ²⁵⁰ being mayor of the
same town and John Peny and
William Grene then bailiffs there

²⁵⁰ Gilbert Litstere, Lyster, or Lycester, was mayor of the town in 1448-9, and 1457-8. Gilbert Littlester was one of the members for the town at the parliament held 25th Henry VI.

ordinatum tunc existit & p̄sum
ex om̄ consensu tunc ib̄m̄ int̄sentm̄
qui vn̄animes pure & sp̄onte con-
cesserūt qd̄ antiqua consuetudo
maior̄ ville Norhampton̄ que semp
soluta non stetit s; semp ad huc
p̄seuānt̄ firma & stabilit̄ p̄manit̄
cuius p̄ncipij memoria non con-
stat de recordo. videt̄ qd̄ omnes
Burgenses maiores ville Norham-
pton̄ qui postq̄m̄ Officiū Maioratus
sui singl̄i p̄ Anno p̄impleūint
& artem Brat̄nalem in Domib; suis
occupānt̄. intendunt & fre-
quentānt̄. Non amplius arceant̄
neq; compellant̄ ballis d̄ce ville
Norht̄ p̄ tempe existēnt̄ neq; suc-
cessorib; suis aliquam sumam pe-
cunie arti p̄d̄ce spectant̄ ōm̄o
solūe. neq; teneant̄ vigilas sine
excubias et̄iuales siue Autūp-
tales sedm̄ ordinatū p̄d̄m̄ ob̄t̄uānt̄
neq; penitus custodīnt̄ sed inde temp̄
sint quieti temp̄or̄ p̄ futūr̄

it is ordained and provided by
the consent of all then and there
present who unanimously rightly
and voluntarily agreed that the
ancient custom of the mayors of
the town of Northampton which
has never been dissolved but
always up to this time has
remained surely firm and estab-
lished the memory of the be-
ginning of which is not on
record namely that all burgesses
mayors of the town of North-
ampton who after they have
severally discharged the office
of their mayoralty for a year
and intend to practise and con-
tinue the art of Brewing in their
houses shall no more be obliged
or compelled to pay at all any
sum of money pertaining to the
art aforesaid to the bailiffs of the
said town of Northampton for
the time being or their suc-
cessors nor shall they be held to
observe watches or guards in the
summer or autumn according to
the ordinance aforesaid nor to
keep inner watch but shall ever
be quit of that for future time

A maior afte his
mayoralty shall
not pay for
brewing nor
kepe watche

ORDINACIO FACT̄ TEMPE
GILBERTI LICESTER MAIORIS P̄
PORCIS CIRCŪVAGANTIZ I VILLA

Ad congregatoem gen̄alem
hab̄it̄ & tent̄ in Ecc̄lia s̄ci

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE
TIME OF GILBERT LICESTER ²⁵¹
MAYOR FOR PIGS THAT
ROAM ABOUT IN THE TOWN

At a general congregation had
and holden in the Church of St

[Folio 55a.]

²⁵¹ Gilbert Licester, Lyster, or Lycester, was mayor of the town in 1448-9, and 1457-8. Gilbert Littlester was one of the members for the town at the parliament held 25th Henry VI.

Egidij ville Norhampton die m-
curij p̄ ante festum s̄i Dionisij
m̄is Anno r̄ r̄ Henrici sexti post
conquestum Tricesimo sexto tempe
Gilb̄ti Listerie maioris p̄ eius ex-
imiam discretionem et totius
Cōitatis Assensum ordinatum con-
stitutū & stabilitū existit. Quod nullus
homo nec femina dimitteret por-
cos suos in plateis vicis seu venillis
infra villam ire Et si aliquis in-
uentus fuit transgressor p̄ talibz
porcis cont^a ordinatioem istam ita
circum vagantibz qd tunc soluat
ad primam captōem Camarijs ville
Norhampton p̄ quolibz porco sic
capt⁹ iiijd. Et si sepius p̄ dēos
Camarios capiant⁹ qd tunc dict⁹
porci vendant^r ad pficiū Cam⁹e
ville p̄notate nisi infra quatuor
dies extunc p̄ sequent⁹ tales
possessores porcoz ita captoz ag-
greauit cum Camarijs p̄ tempe
existent⁹ Ac dict⁹ ordinatio imppm
duratur.

Giles in the town of Northampton
on Wednesday [5th October, 1457]
next before the feast of St Denys
the martyr in the 36th year of the
reign of King Henry the Sixth
after the Conquest in the time of
Gilbert Lycester Mayor by his
excellent discretion and the as-
sent of the whole commonalty
it is ordained constituted and
established that no man nor
woman shall let his or her pigs
go in the streets roads or lanes
within the town And if any
shall be found a transgressor
for such pigs contrary to this
ordinance so roaming about that
then he shall pay for the first
capture to the chamberlains of
the town of Northampton for
every pig so taken 4d And if
often by the said chamberlains
they be taken that then the said
pigs shall be sold to the profit
of the chamber of the town be-
fore named unless within four
days then next following such
owners of pigs so taken agree
with the chamberlains for the
time being And the said or-
dinance to endure for ever

ORDINACIO FACT TEMPE THOME BRAFELD MAIORIS A^o R̄ R̄ H
VJ^a XXXJ^o PRO ARTE FFULLORUM CAP^o

[ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF THOMAS BRAFELD ³⁶² IN
THE 31ST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HENRY VI FOR THE
CRAFT OF FULLERS CHAPTER.]

At the Comyn semble holden in the Chirche of Seint Gyle in

³⁶² Thomas Brafeld, or Brafield, was mayor of the town in 1452-3.

toūn of Norhampton the Wedoneysday [11th October 1452] next
 aftir Seynt Denys day in the yere of kyng Henry Abovenseide
 by the Assent of the seide Maire his xxiiij Comburges and all the
 Cominalte of the seide toūn ther being is Accorded And ppetually
 to endure. ffirste that is to sey that the Mair of the seide town by the
 Auctorite of the kyng to him commytted charge the houtholders
 of the seide fullercrafte to Assēble and comyne to gedyr eūy yere
 oones vppon Seint Thomas day the Appostell [21st December] at
 the ffirster prechos²⁵³ in the seide town. Ther to chese ij sufficiante
 pones of the same crafte to be serchers ther of for the yere fol-
 lowing. And ij wardens maistres of the same crafte to serche and
 correcte as well the warkmanship of the seide serchers as all other
 defeutes in the same crafte And that aswell the seide. ij. maistres
 as the. ij. serchers so chosen at the next hustying day after the
 seide election apper in the Gyldehall of the seide town Affor the
 Mair for the tyme beyng There to be sworne that the seide. ij.
 maisters dewly shall serche and correcte the warkmanship of the
 seide. ij. serchers. And the same. ij. serchers. thre dayes or too
 dayes at the leste eūy weke shall serche thorowe the seide crafte
 All man⁹ defeutes deceytes and hurtes therof. And theym duly
 and Justely withoute fauour or hate punythe and correcte be suche
 fynes as shalbe thoust to the seide maisters resonable for the seide
 offens by the assent and oulsight of the Maire for the tyme beyng.
 And that eūy houtholder of the seide crafte beyng in the seide
 town at the seide day of elleccion be there p̄sent in the same
 semble vppon the payne of. ij. li. wax or the price therof to the
 seide craft to be paid but if he be seke or haue any other resō-
 nable cause of lette. And if the seide. ij. serchers be negligent and
 execute not dewly their seide serche in man⁹ and forme aforeseide.
 the seide maisters to sette hem at suche fyne as they shull seme
 resonable for eūy offence be the oulsight of the maire for the tyme
 beyng. And that noo fuller occupying the seid crafte bere nor
 delyū eny cloth be hym wrought oute of his gounaunce vnto suche
 tyme at it be sene serched and proved be the seide serchers vppon
 payne of. xij d. to be paid to the seide crafte as often as eny is
 in that defeaute. And if the owner of any suche clothe so delyūed
 not serched nor proved compleyn and shewe to the seide maisters

[Folio 55b.]

[Folio 56a.]

²⁵³ The house of the Black Friars or Friars Preachers, was situate in the Horse-
 market, Northampton. It appears to have been founded about 1240.

[Folio 56b.]

for the tyme beyng of any hurte or defaute in werkmanſhip . Then the ſeide maſters to ſette hym that ſo delyu'd it atte ſuche fyne as ſhall ſeeme to hem reſonable by the Aſſent and ouſight of the mayer for the tyme beyng . And if the ſeide ſerchers fynde and preve greate defaute of non habylite of ſtuff & conyng in warkmanſhip to haue rewle and kepyng the charge of mennys good of clothemakyng in eny fuller of the ſeide craſte . That thei haue power to diſcharge hym of the ſeide occupacion in the ſeide toun . ſuche cauſe reſonable ſhewed . and proved afore the Mayre for the tyme beyng And that the forfeiture of all ſuche fynes Aboueſeid may be diſpoſed and put the oon halfe of hem to be delyu'd to the Maire for tyme beyng as comen treſoure to the ſeide toun And the tother halfe of the ſame ſuſtenaunce of thre tapres in the Chyrche of Allhalowen afore Seint John Baptiſte . And for aſmyche as the forfeiture of ſuche fynes for offences is but caſuall to the ſuſtinaunce of the ſeide lyght . That it lyke you to ordeyn that eu'ry fuller which has nott bien Apprentice to the ſame craſte in the toun of North by the terme of . iiij . yere at the leſte trewly ſerued and fulfilled that ſhall sett vp craſte and occupie houſholde in the ſame toun may be proved be the Maſters of the ſame craſte ſufficyaunte and able to occupie and kepe charge and rewle of menes good afore the maire for the tyme beyng And to paie to the ſuſtinaunce of the ſeide lightes . vj s . viij d . And to the ſeid Maire as Comen treſoure for the toun vjs . viij d at his comyng in and begynnyng And yerely aſtir duryng his occupation he and eu'ry houſholder of the ſame craſte to ſuſtentacion of the ſame lightes . iiij d . And that eu'ry fuller which hath been prentes at the ſeide craſte in the ſeide toun afore this ordeynaunce made or ſhalbe at the leſte by the ſpace of iiij yere as it is aforeſeide that ſhall sett vp craſte and occupie houſtolde in the ſame town may be proved by the Maſters of the ſaide craſte for the tyme beyng ſufficiant and able to occupie and kepe charge and rewle of menes good afore the Maire for the tyme beyng . And for to paie to the ſuſtinaunce of the ſeide lightes xxd . And to the ſeide Maier as comen treſour of the toun xxd . at his comyng in and begynnyng . And that no houſholder of the ſeide craſte vex nor emplede other houſholder of the ſame craſte in the Courte of this toun nor eny other withoute leſe Aſked of the Maſters for tyme beyng be the ſpace of . xv . daies aſtir the ſeide leſe asked vppon payne of vjs viij d the one halfe therof to the Maire as comen treſoure of the town And the other halfe to the

[Folio 57a.]

sustinaunce of the seide lightes as is Aforeseide. And if the seide Maisters do not her trewe diligence and laboure and sette the pties at ende Within the seid xv daies than the pties to be at large and sewe aftur the custum and viage of the seide toun. And that no fuller of the seide crafte take more for a cloth trewly wrought for his warkmanthip of any clothmaker of the seide toun. nor thei hau takyn of olde tyme for a cloth that was trewly wrought before this acte made. In peyne of the forfeiture of all the Articles conteigened in the ordinaunce before writen. fische mater and cause founden and proved before the maire for the tyme beyng and his counsell. And that this petition and articles Aforeseide may be enacte and enrolled in this Comoen Semble And the transcripthe therof to be delyued be the Mayer to suche as ben most sufficiaunt in the same crafte ensealed aswell with the seall of the mayeralte as with the Comoen seall of the same town ppetually to endure Provide allwey that the statute and ordenaunce afore made take his begynnnyng to stand in his strenght at Seint Thomas day the Appostell [21st December] Aforeseid. And soo from yere to yere for eu^rmore to endure as it is Aboven seide Also it is ordeyned by William Peryn²⁵⁴ maier & his Councell p^r monday next [7th January, 1454] Aft^r Seint Edwardes day the kyng the xxxijth yere of kyng herry the sixt. That if eny fuller put out eny cloth to borle he shall pay xx^d to p^r town And xx^d to p^r crafte. And if eny fuller set eny jo'neymā Awerke but he haue geven his maist^r due warnyng he shall pay xijd to p^r town & xijd to the crafte

[Folio 57b.]

TEMPE JOHIS WALK MAIER

[IN THE TIME OF JOHN WALKER,²⁵⁵ MAYOR.]

[Folio 58a.]

At a husteng all Court holden in the Guyhald of the town of Norhampton the mondaie [17th February, 1516] next by fore the lest of seint mathie daie thapostell in the vij yer of kyng Henr the viijth it is enacted & establised by John Walker of the forseid toun John Wattis John Saxby John Pryn Thoms Wellis John Hilton Thoms Peny and Thoms Peny late maiers of the same. thorow assent and consent of all the matters of fullers Crafte wthin the same toun that no man of the same fullers craftelett Willm Mall fuller awarke nor his Wife nor no man wth theym

²⁵⁴ William Peryn, Perin, or Parrin was mayor of the town in 1443-4, 1453-4, and 1464-5.

²⁵⁵ John Walker in 1516-7. This ordinance is written by a later hand.

[Folio 56b.]

neyther in myllyng nor inteyn teryng there as the forſeid Willm Dothe nor in burlyng nor in no wiſe Company w^t the ſeid willm mall nor with his wyfe nor he nor his wyfe w^t non of the occupa- con in no tyme to come And if any of the maſters of the ſeid occupacon be ou^rtakyn in any of the forſeid ordenaunce; then he or the ſo ou^rtakyn ſhall loſe at eu^y time xiijs iiijd the one halfe therof to the maier for the tyme beyng as Comyn Treſour to the toun & the other halfe to the pſite of the occupacon And if any Joⁿeyman Worke w^t the ſeid Willm mall And is ageyne the forſeid ordenaunce; that then the ſame joⁿeyman to leſe iiijd halfe therof to the maier & halfe to the Craſte in man^r aforeſeid and then that no maſter of that Craſte to occupie that Joⁿman afterward vpon the forſeid payne &c

[Folio 59a.]

ORDINACIO FACTA P^r THOMAM
BRAFELDE MAIOREM &
SU^m CONSILIU^m P^r ARTE
ALLUTARIOX ANNO REGNI
REGIS HENRICI VI^{ti} XXX^o

ORDINANCE MADE BY THOMAS
BRAFELDE²⁵⁶ MAYOR AND HIS
COUNCIL FOR THE CRAFT OF
CORDWAINERS IN THE 31ST
YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING
HENRY VI

Item ordinatum eſt qd nullus
Artifex eiufdem Artis infra villam
p^rde^m de arte ſua Shopam tenens
deceſſo teneat nec habeat aliquod
Stallum in mercato d^ee ville ad
ſotulares ſeu mercandifas Arti
p^rde^m ptinentes vendende ſz qd
eas tantu^m ad ſhopas ſuas vendant
et vendere teneant^r. Et ſi aliquis
ſ^ruiens eiufdem Artis ens aut
futurus & eſſendus Aliquo furto
ſeu latrocinio detectus fuit & in
eo reus comptus. Qd tunc Gar-
diani p^rde^m Artis p^rtempe exiſtentes
p^rmunitoem debitam facient ma^g-
ro d^ee ſ^ruiantis cui ſ^ruierit qd

Also it was ordained that no
craftsman of the ſame craft hold-
ing within the town aforeſaid a
shop for his craft ſhall hereafter
hold or have any ſtall in the mar-
ket of the ſaid town to ſell ſhoes
or wares belonging to the craft
aforeſaid but they muſt ſell and
be obliged to ſell them only at
their ſhops And if any journey-
man of the ſame craft now
being or about to be ſhall
have been detected in any theft
or robbery and in it found guilty
that then the wardens of the
aforeſaid craft for the time being
ſhall give due warning to the
maſter of the ſaid journeyman

²⁵⁶ Thomas Brafield, or Brafeld, was mayor of the town in 1452-3.

ipm secum opari non pmittat sub pena sex solidos & octo denarios ad vsum ville pdce ac lūinariū et torchiaz eiusdem Artis de magro s'uiantis pdci leuande p maiorem dce ville qui p tempe s'uit Et gardianos eiusdem Artis ad tempus existentes videt si pdcm s'uiantem sic reum comptū a s'uitio suo post debitam pmunitonem sibi factū non euacuauit. vnde vna medietas pdce pene sic prouise ad vsum Cam'e ville pdce remanebit Et Alt'a medietas eiusdem ad vsum lūinariū et torchiaz Artis pdce tocies quociens Aliquis casus contimilis contig'it infutur. Et si aliquis s'uiens aut oparius diurnus accessit ad villam in arte pdca opaturus & pmanurus et in eadem arte p vnū mensem ibm opatus fuit qd tunc soluet duos denar lūinaribz et torchijs Artis pdce. Et si diutius expectauit qd tunc soluet quotit quartio Anni vnū denariū aut magister eius cui s'uiert p eo soluet sicut cet'i seruientes Artis pdce soluere solent et soluere conueuunt duimodo infra villam pdcam pmanit.

to whom he shall be in service that he do not permit him to work with him under a penalty of 6s 8d to the use of the town aforesaid and the lights and torches of the same art to be levied from the master of the said journeyman by the mayor of the said town for the time being and the wardens of the same craft at the time being namely if he shall not have discharged the aforesaid journeyman so found guilty from his service after due warning given to him whereof one moiety of the aforesaid penalty so provided shall remain to the use of the chamber of the town aforesaid and the other moiety of the same to the use of the lights and torches of the craft aforesaid as often as any similar case shall occur in the future And if any journeyman or workman by the day shall come to the town intending to work in the craft aforesaid and to stay and in the same craft shall have worked there for one month then he shall pay 2d to the lights and torches of the craft aforesaid And if he stay longer that then he shall pay in every quarter of the year 1d or his master whom he is serving shall pay for him as the other journeymen of the craft aforesaid are accustomed and have been accustomed to pay as long as he shall remain within the town aforesaid

[Folio 59b.]

Et sic de singulis p^{er}uenientib^{us} ei^{us}dem artis ad villam p^{re}d^{ic}tam ad opand^{um} p^{er}sonalit^{er} accessuris et venientib^{us} infutur^{um}. Et si aliquis artifex ei^{us}dem Artis imposs^{um} infra villam p^{re}d^{ic}tam Shopam tenens aliquod stallum in mercato d^{omi}n^e ville contra formam p^{re}missam posuerit ad sotulares seu mercandizas ei^{us}dem artis vendend^{as}. qd tunc soluet viginti denar^{um} maiori ville p^{re}d^{ic}t^e qui pro tempe fuit ad vsum cam^{er}e ville p^{re}d^{ic}t^e Ac alios viginti denar^{um} ad vsum torchiar^{um} et l^uminar^{um} artis p^{re}d^{ic}t^e Gardiamus (sic) ei^{us}dem artis p^{er} tempe existentib^{us} indilate p^{ro}soluend^{as} tocien^{tes} quociens sic fec^{er}it seu eo^{rum} aliquis fec^{er}it in futur^{um} Nou^{er}itis nos p^{re}statum maiorem ad intimam supplicacionem Willelmi Gybbes & Johis Marchall Gardiano^{rum} artis p^{re}d^{ic}t^e ac alio^{rum} Artificum et magro^{rum} p^{re}d^{ic}t^{orum} in hac pte nobis fact^{as} p^{re}d^{ic}t^{as} ordinationes in omib^{us} vt sup^{er}scribunt^{ur} et recitant^{ur} ex p^{ro}uidia deliberatione n^{ost}ra cum Assensu Consilij n^{ost}ri Comburgensium n^{ost}ro^{rum} p^{re}d^{ic}t^{orum} p^{re}sent^{is} & consensu diligent^{er} inspexisse plegisse et examinasse ac eas p^{ro} nobis & successorib^{us} n^{ost}ris in quanto de iure possumus ratificasse & confirmasse Ac in Registro memorando^{rum} ville p^{re}d^{ic}t^e int^{er} ceteras diu^{er}sar^{um} artium ordinationes registrari

[Folio 60a.]

And so from each several journey-men of the said craft that shall in person approach to work or come in the future And if any craftsman of the same craft hereafter within the town aforesaid who has a shop shall place any stall in the market of the said town contrary to the form above set forth to sell shoes and wares of the same craft that then he shall pay 20d to the mayor of the town aforesaid for the time being to the use of the chamber of the town aforesaid and other 20d to the use of the torches and lights of the craft aforesaid to the wardens of the same craft for the time being without delay to be paid as often as he or any one of them shall do so in future You must know that we the aforesaid mayor at the earnest supplication of Willaim Gybbes & John Marchall wardens of the craft aforesaid and of the other craftsmen and masters aforesaid in this respect made to us have diligently inspected read through and examined the aforesaid ordinances in all things as are above written and recited of our careful deliberation with the assent likewise and consent of our council of our fellow-burgesses aforesaid and them for ourselves and our successors in so far as we rightly can do so have ratified and confirmed and have caused by these presents to be registered verbatim in the Register of

verbatim fecisse p^r p^resentes. In cuius rei testimoniū sigillum n^ri maioratus officij in maius robur & recordum p^rmissos p^r nos p^resentibz est appensum. Dat^r apud Norhampton vicesimo secundo die mentis Nouembris Anno regni Regis Henrici Sexti post conq^m Tricesimo Primo Prouiso semp qd sup^rius omⁿ p^rmissos vt in aliquo ea non excedant nobis p^rfato maiori et successoribz n^ris remanebit p^r p^resentes &c

things to be remembered of the town aforesaid among other ordinances of diuers crafts In testimony whereof the seal of our office of mayor for the greater confirmation and record of the premisses by us to these presents is appended Dated at Northampton on the 22nd day of the month of November [Wednesday, 22nd November, 1452] in the 31st year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth after the Conquest Provided always that the supervision of all the premisses that they do not exceed in any way shall remain with us the aforesaid mayor and our successors by the presents etc

And vppon thees the kyng comaundementz at oure comoen Semble holden in the chyrche of Seynt Gyle in the Town of Norhampton vppon ffrydaye the xxv daie of Maij the yere of the reigne of oure moſte sou^reign lorde kyng Hen^r the syxte xxxviii^a [1460] by the aduise of William Austyn²⁵⁷ Sqvyer thann Meyr with the assent of his xxiiij^a Comburgeiſes and all the Cōialte of the same haue ordeigned enſtabeliſhed and affermyd this acte and ordeinaunce ſolowyng amonge other vſages and statutez vied withinne the ſaid Town euer to endure &c

[Folio 60b.]

That is to ſaye That noo maner man ffraunchefed of what degree or condicion so euer he be withinne this Town of Norhampton dwellyng take vppon hym to were eny maner Clothyng or Sygnes of eny lorde squyer or any other perſone vnſfraunchefed excepte the kyng our ſouereign lorde in payne of enprisonement by .xl. dayes. And makyng flyne to the Chaumbre of the ſaide town .xl.^a at the lette without eny redempcion. yf his goodez will atteyn therto as often as eny is founden with ſuche defaulte. And the ſaide pſone so beyng in priſone there to remayne Aftir the ſaide .xl. daies tille haue paid the ſaide .xl.^a.

no fraunchised man shall wear livery of any other unſraunchised nor badge

²⁵⁷ William Austyn or Austin was Mayor of the town in 1459-60, 1468-9, and 1476-7.

[Folio 61a.] sterlingis or founden sufficient suerte to paie .xl^s. sterlinge to the Chaumbre of the said town. And if the saide p^{er}son so beyng in prisone paie not the xl^s sterlinge nor can fynde noo suerte to paie thanne the same p^{er}son to haue emprisonement of xij monethes &c

no ma franchised shall serve any other unfranchised
Jt^{em} that noo maner man ffaunchesed of the saide town in his owne p^{er}son goo ryde ne sende ne make eny vnlawfull othes promys ne assuraunce to goo ryde ne to sende eny other p^{er}son for theym with eny lorde knyght squyer or eny other p^{er}son without hit be by the kynges comaundement or by lycence of the maier for the tyme beyng or in allysting of the kynges officeres in the kynges service beyng for the tyme vppon the same payne &c

the mayer that possyvyth shall forfeit
Jt^{em} that the Maier that nowe is of the saide town and every maire which shall succede hym for hys tyme whiche dothe not due execucion punnyshement vppon suche trespassours Ageyn theis the whiche ben the kynges comaundement and oure ordonaunces And it be founden by his owne knowleche or by one or tweyn suche as haue ben in the office of maier of the same Town or ellys by due examynacion had by .xij. p^{er}sones at the leste of the xxiiijth chieff Burgesies of the same. That the maier hadd verray knowleche of the saide offences And allso of the trespassour that

[Folio 61b.] then the saide Maire to be charged of xl^s. sterlinge for eu^{er}y suche trespassoure so offendyng to be paid to the Chaumbre of the saide Towne. Prouided allwey that this Acte and ordonaunce extende not to eny p^{er}son or p^{er}sones suche as the statute wyll excuse &c

ORDINACIO FACT PRO LEZ WEVERS

[ORDINANCE MADE FOR WEAVERS]

At the Comyn semble holden in the Chyrche of Seint Gile in the Towne of Northampton the Wedneiday [6th October, 1462] next affore the feste of Seint Dionisij the martir in the secounde yere of kyng Edward the iiijth by the Assent of the saide Maior and his xxiiijth Combarges and all the Comunalte of the saide Town ther beyng is Acordid and ppetually to endure

fyrste that is to sey that euery p^{er}son that shall occupie and set vp the seide Weyverescrafte within the ffaunches of this town fro this day forward may be Abled be the Wardens of the seide

crafte that he be an Able and sufficient werkman in the seide Weivercrafte. And Alsoo that he be Abled by .ij. discrete psones comburgenes of the xxiiijth suche as shalbe chotyn be the maire for the tyme beyng and his counsell. And the Wardenez of the seide Weivercrafte with hem that he be worthe of his owne propur goods c.^o

[Folio 62a.]

And that than he that is so Abled be the seid burgenes and wardenes of the seide crafte to paie to the maire for the tyme beyng os comyng Trefoure for the town. if that he have been prentise within this Town at the seide Weuercrafte by the terme of .vj. yere at the leste trewly served and pformed .xlth. And to the sustynauce of the lyghtes and torches of the seide crafte .xlth. At his comyng Jnne and be gynnyng

And he that hath not ben prentise within this town At the seide crafte be the terme of .vj. yere at the leste trewly served and pformed and is Abled in the forme be fore reherfed to paye to the maire for the tyme beyng os comonn trefure to the Town .vjth viijth. And to the sustynauce of the lyghtes and torches of the seide crafte .vjs. viij d. At his comyng Jnne and begynnyng.

And also that euery howsholder of the seide crafte which nowe been & schull been that he pay his quaterage to oure lady lighte aswele for hym selfe os for any man whiche shall wyrke with hym euery yere before the feste of Esterne or elles on the Eistronmonday at the furthest. And if any pson be behynde Any yere of the seide quarterage in parte or in all vnpaid astir the seide Eistronmonday be the space of Amoneth that than he that is so founden sawty to be Restreynyd of occupying of his lones be the comaundement of the maire for the tyme beyng vntyll tyme that the crafte be agreyd and fully satisfied of suche quarterage so beyng be hynde. And that he that offendith in any of theis ordynauce longyng to the seide crafte mooste be called be fore the maire for his offence to paye to the officers of the toun all maner charges & costes suche os of oolde tyme han been dueed & customed or that he be delydd. And that this ordynauce may be enacte at this tyme at the reuerence of god and in Wey of charyte. To the whiche enacte J William hayrose²⁵⁶ maire of the toun before seide the seall of the office of the meyralte of the same town hafe setto &c.

[Folio 62b.]

[Folio 63a.]

²⁵⁶ William Hayrose was member for the town of Northampton at the Parliaments held 33rd and 38th Henry VI.; but his name does not appear amongst the list of Mayors for the town.

ORDINACIO FACT TEMPE
WILLI PERYN MAIORIS ANNO RR
EDWARDI QUARTI TERCIO

Ad colloquū gen^{ale} ten^t in
ecclia S^ci Egidij ville Norhamp-
ton die m^{er}curij prox^{ima} ante festum
S^ci Dionisij matris Anno rr Ed-
wardi quarti post conquestum ter-
cio. Per eximiam discretiōem
Willi Peryn tunc Maioris Johis
Harrys et Willi Slynde Bailioz
et p^{er} aviſamentum ac consilij
xxiiij^{or} eiusdem ville Combur-
gens cum vnanimi assensu totius
cōitatis ville p^{re}d^{ic}t^e Sequens or-
dinacō et Statutum in Dei om̄i-
potentis honorem. et ad Salutem
Spūalem et corpalem om̄i Cristianoz
tam infra dictam villam comor-
ancū qm̄ ad p^{ro}uincia^{lem} villam pue-
niencū. Et p^{re}cipue in Sabbata
Conditoris n^{ost}re b^eate eius genitricis
marie om̄iqz Cūm S^co^{rum} celestū
ob^{ser}uando q^{uo}tum lex Anglie et
consuetudo ville in se exigunt et
requirunt modo editū est et stabilitū
tempibz in futu^{rum} duratu^{rum} put in
lingua n^{ost}ra materna sequitur in
hec verba

[Folio 63b.]

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE
TIME OF WILLIAM PERYN ³⁵⁹
MAYOR IN THE THIRD
YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING
EDWARD IV

At a general conference holden
in the church of S Giles in the
town of Northampton on Wed-
nesday [5th October, 1463] next
before the feast of S Denys the
martyr in the 3rd year of the
reign of King Edward the Fourth
after the Conquest By the ex-
cellent discretion of William
Peryn then mayor John Harrys
and William Slynde Bailiffs by
the advice and counsel of the 24
fellow-burgesses of the same
town with the unanimous consent
of the commonalty of the town
aforesaid The following ordi-
nance and statute to the honour
of Almighty God and to the
welfare spiritual and corporal of
all Christian men both dwelling
within the said town and coming
to the beforenamed town And
especially in observing the les-
tivals of our Founder of His
Blessed Mother Mary and of all
the holy citizens of heaven as far
as the law of England and the
custom of the town demand and
require of them is now set forth
and established to endure for the
times to come as in our mother
tongue follows in these words

³⁵⁹ William Peryn, Perin, or Parrin was Mayor of the town in 1443-4, 1452-4
and 1464-5.

That no maner foreyn marchaunt ne Chapman as drapers mercers hoefiers Jrmongers flaxmen Tanners no non other foreyn p'sone of what crafte degre or condicioñ so euer he be that bryngith eny marchaundise or ware to this toun to be solde . Savyng onely vitaille take vpon hym nor by coloure of any other mene p'sone for them to shewe eny such marchaundise or ware openly in this market ne p'lee ni none other place withinne this seide towne vpon any halydaye ne other daie in the Woke but if it be w'inne his Jnne to A marchaunte or chapman of this same towne . And to none other foreyn p'sone in peyne of forfaiture of all suche marchaundise or ware to the profite of the chaumbr of this seide towne . As often as eny p'sone so vsurpeth or taketh vpon hym into the Contrary to offende Accordyng to the goode sadde and laudable Customes of other Citees and Burghes of this Realme The Satirdaye euy werke which is the market daye to this toun Assigned with the iij festes of oure lady . And the fest of saint Jame thappostle [25th July] euy p'sone of goode disposicion liefully to come shewe and vtter suche os they or eny of them kan take vpon hym to vse and occupie to the pleasur of god . And theire owne p'site .

no foreyn
merchant shew
no wares but
in his hu to
merchautes of
the town

[Folio 64a.]

Et quo ad debitam puniçoem
sue execucionem istius ordinaçonis
vel statuti p'libati ad p'iens
ediũ & constituti mandatum est
decretũ et det'mmatvm vt istud
statutum aut actum scriat' in
Registro Cuñ ville p'dce in t' ceta
Record ibm imppm Remansũ
Necnon huic transcripto Sigillum
Cõe ville p'dce sit appensum in
Record et testimoniũ p'missũ &c

And to the due punishment
or execution of this ordinance or
statute before delivered it is
now set forth and firmly com-
manded decreed and determined
that that statute or act be written
in the Register of the Court of
the town aforesaid among the
other records there to remain for
ever Moreover to this transcript
the common seal of the town
aforesaid is appended for the
record and testimony of the pre-
misses &c

ORDINACIO FACT TEMPE THOME HUNT MAIORIS ANNO
R̄ R̄ EDWARDI QUARTI QUARTO P̄ ARTE FFULLONU

[ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF THOMAS HUNT²⁰⁰ MAYOR
IN THE 4TH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING EDWARD THE IV
FOR THE CRAFT OF FULLERS]

Att the comon semble Holden in the Chirche of Seynt
Giles . Thabbot in the Toun of Norhampton the Weddenneti-
day [10th October, 1464] in the morne next astyr the feste of
Seynt Dynys the martir the iiijth yere of kyng Edward the iiijth .
Carders Spynners Weuers fullers by bylle of supplicacion to
[Folio 64b.] Thom's Hunt then Maire of the seide town his Comburgeitles and
Comons of the same for the Weale of all thenhabitauntez of the seide
towne. That is to sey the Carders Spynners Weuers & fullers
of this town praien you tendirly to confider that where the kyng
oure gracious liege lord . And his lordis spual & tempall by
Auctorite of his high courte of Parliament . holden at Westmynstre .
the xxixth day of Aprill thyrde yere of his noble Reigne [1463]
have ordeyned sadd and straite statuterz and ordeynaunceis to be
executed vpon makyng of wollen cloth withine this his Realme
Among the whiche statutes and ordinaunceis is laide and sett.
vpon youre seide besechers soo great charge that it is to theym
importable withoute remadye be hadd in this behalfe folowyng
Wherefore like it youre good and great wysdomys to graunte at
this Comon Semble . That foratmyche as it is ordeyned by the
kyng at his seide Courte of Parliament that euery clothemaker
shall gyffe and paye to euery laborer of cloth makyng Redy money
for theyr occupaçon . That fro this tyme forward if eny of the
seide besechers . Whiche now be or shalbe . That is to sey Carders
[Folio 65a.] Spynners Weus and fullers beyn dreven to take any other Ware
or marchaundise contrary to the statutes or actes in the seid
pliament ordeyned and stablished . That then the Mayre for the
tyme beyng to levy executee and take of euery clothmaker doyng
the contrary suche recompence and satisfaccion to the profett of
the compleyno^r as in the saide Acte of Parliament is specified
and ordeyned . And ovr that all yo^r seide trewe besechers hartely
prayen and desyren by youre seide wisdomes to confidre that
mony and dyuse Clothes halfe clothes dosens halfe dosens . And

²⁰⁰ Thomas Hunt was mayor of the town in 1465-6, 1473-4, and 1481-2; and one of the members of the parliament held 28th Henry VI.

other faggis of cloth is suspecte made of diuerse colours beyng hadd and putt to ffullyng to diuerse psonys withinne this town. And fro the seide fullers delyued withoute serche of the wardens of the seide fullers crafte therto yerely sworne. That fro this tyme forward what pson of the seide fullers Crafte within this toun dwellyng delyue or make to bee delyued eny maner of clothe if it be more or lesse to eny cloth maker withoute the same fuller bryng the Awner of the seid cloth before the seid Wardens to prove it is owne ppur good in payne to paie to the town .xs. And to the Crafte .xs. by cause ther is so myche wolle and yerne falsely embasled. And that then the seid wardens to certifie the Maire for the tyme beyng therof in the same payne. And that euery fuller from this tyme forward be Enabeled in his warkmanship by the seide wardens. And allso by two burgeis of the xxiiijth chosen by thadvise of the Meyre for the tyme beyng. And the seide Wardens with him that he be worth of his owne ppur good .x. Marc. Allso yf any housholder of the seid crafte be noyfed wth any felony or vntrouth to the valure of fuche a sūme As he myghte be atteynte fore by the kynges lawes by surmytting or suggestion of any pson p^r man so noyfed shall nott occupie the seide crafte within this Toun vntille he be lawfully excused or ellis founde gyilty. And if any parson be so founde gyltie that then he to be punyshed accordyng to the kynges lawies. By thadvise of the maire for the tyme beyng and his brethern And what pson. And what pson disclaindreth or diffaunth any husholder of the same crafte of any felony falsenes or vntrouth as it is before seide that he thulde doo or vse. And he may not therof bryng forth his wittnesse or proves and therof be atteyned. That then he shall paye to the profett of the seide town and the seid Crafte .xxs. euently to be departed As ofte tyme as any too offendeth. Allso praying you to Remembre that it is greatly spoken comoned and merueled Aswell by lordis worshipfull whiche done shewe their good lordhippis and fauoure to this town As by marchauntes Citeellyns and burgeis thurgh this Realme. That hit is sofered of clothmakers of this towne to putte their werke in to the hondis of other psonys dwellyng owte of the ffranchises of this seide town. And so doo see daily their pore neighborghis to be in great distresse and pouerte for lake of occupacion like to be famyshted or ellis falle in to greate mitchiff. Wherefore in

[Folio 65b.]

felony

[Folio 66a.]

[Folio 60b.]

eschewing of great Inconuenienc; both to god & to the worlde nowe at this tyme to lett ordeigne And stablish that if any clothmaker of this toun henſſorwarde putt or doo to be putt ony werke owte of the ſtraunches to ony pſone to wevyng or ffullyng but onely to thenhabytauntes of the ſame. That clothmaker which doth contrary in eny parte longyng or dependyng to the ſeid clothmakyng paye for euery offence to the chaumb̄r of the ſeide town xiiij^s iiiij^d. conſideracion to be hadde. that ther is for lake of occupacion in this be halfe before compleyned xviiij ſkore place; and howſes and tenementes diſlate and voide withinne this town which we truſt to in god ſhall enhabited bettur then euy they were theis pmiſſes doone grauntt and conſidered. As charite requyreth. Theſe Actes and ordinaunces to take effecte and ſtande in ſtrenght Att the ſſeite of Critemas nowe next folowyng date of this pſente euer to endure Withowte ony pſone wolle make iuſſiciaunt pve w'inne A yere then next folowyng Att A comon ſemble that this ſeide ordinaunces ſhulde cauſe or growe to ony Inconuenyence to the weall and pſyſte of thenhabitauntes of this ſeide Town. This Acte and ordinaunces to be putt and Recorded in the Regeſtre of the Courte in the Town of Norhampton Amonge other ſtatutes and ordynaunces of the ſame towne. And the tranſcripte therof to be entealed. Aſwell with the Seall of the office of the Mairalte As with the Comon Seall of the ſame towne yeuen At Norhampton Aforeſeid the Thurſday [20th December, 1464] in the vigell of Seynt Thomas thappoſtill the iiijth yere of the Reigne of kyng Edward the iiijth &c.

ORDINACIO FACT TEMPE JOHIS BUTLER MAIORIS ANNO R^e
EDWARDI IIIⁱⁱ V^{to}

[ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF JOHN BUTLER²⁶¹ IN THE 5TH
YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING EDWARD IV.]

[Folio 62a.]

This indenture witneſſith Acouaunde made betwix all the Artificers of Wexchaundelers craſte w'inne the town of Norhampton dwelling vpon the oon ptie And the xxiiijth Comburgeis and all other of the Cominalte in the pariſſhe Chirche of Seynt Gyle of the ſeide town in the Wedneſday [16th October, 1465] next Attyr the ſſeite of Seynt Denys then ther at A comon ſemble beyng

²⁶¹ John Butler or Buttilor was Mayor of the town in 1466-7.

SYN MANY AND diuſe compleyntes vnſittyng and ſedicious
 langage longe tyme hath beyn Amonge the Comon pepull Reignyng
 vpon the Artificers of Wexchaundelerſcraſte within this town of
 Norſt inhabitaunt & dwellyng for their deſeivable making of Torchis
 & Torchette not durable ne ſufficiently made as it is oppynly
 proved be the brynnyng of hem but by the ſaide Artificers of the
 ſame Craſte diſleyvable made not of ſufficiant Stufe ne trewly
 wrought to the greate hurte rebuke & diſclaundre of all the Ar-
 tificers of the ſame craſte. And alio great diſclaundre both to the
 meire whiche is the Clerke of the Market withinne this town for
 the tyme beyng os vnto the wurſhip of town. Wherefore John
 Buttillor Maire of the Towne of Norhampton to the goode Auiſe
 & hole aſſent of his counſell to hym ſworne with full comprounſion
 & Aggrement of all the Artificers of the ſame craſte withinne
 this town beyng. Afore hym the monday [14th October, 1465] in
 the morne next Aſtur the feſt of Seint Denys the m^rtir in the
 yere of the reigne of kyng Edward the iiijth Aſtur the conquete
 the .vth. in the Gylde halle of the ſaide town. wylling with all
 his myght power and good entent to queme [ſatisfy] and pleaſe
 god our lorde moſt ſouayne. And to avoide & repele all man⁹ com-
 pleyntes vnſit tyng & ſeducyous langage yminent & lyke to ryſe
 And to reforme put away & diſtroye all ſuche diſleyveable
 making of Torchis & Torchette hereaſtir infynitely to endure
 hath ordeyned prouyded and in this p^rſent indentur included &
 ſpecified diuſe ordinaunces And Articules to be obſerued & kepte
 fynally among hem withoute menithyng or addycyon to be made
 but if it be by aſſent of the Maire for the tyme as hereafter is
 expreſſed and noted. The firſte that all the maiſters of the ſaide
 Craſte that nowe ben and here aſtir ſhall ben eu^y yere in the
 feſt of all halous haue licence to Aſſemble and come to gydur
 withoute eny confederacies making cheſyng the ſame day .ij. of
 the moſte able men maiſters of the ſame craſte into wardens and
 ſerchers of the ſame craſte for the yere enſuyng. whiche Wardens
 ſoo yerely choſen ſhulbe preſented Afore the maire for the tyme
 beyng in Gylde hall vpon the monday next ſolowyng Theire
 eleccyon then ther to make bodilye othe trewly to obſerve ſerche
 and ouſee. All & ſyngler Torchis and Torchette is from this
 tyme forwarde withinne the ſfraunches of this town made to
 be ſolde. And if thei ſyde any Torchis or Torchette hereaſt^r.
 made and not of ſufficiant Stufe that Torche or Torchet to be

Wex chaunde-
 lers for euyl
 wordes emong
 them

[Folio 67b.]

[Folio 68a.]

forfett to the profet of the Town. And the maker therof to be put to Afyne by thadvise of the Maire for the tyme. his counsell and wardens of the fame crafte. Also pvided hit is that the feide wardens for the tyme beyng haue Aseall enprented to seale with all suche Torches & Torchette as the feide wardens & serchers shall prove suffycyauntly made. And ou^r that the Awner of the Torches or Torchette shall haue Anop^re seall of his owne that he may sett vppon Torches or Torchette by syde the seall of the feide wardens in witnessyng of his owne dede Also prouyded it is that if any Torches or Torchette be putte to sale or solde withinne this town hereaft^r and not sealed as it is before comprised that then the feide Torche or Torchet shalbe forfet to the Town and the maker or seller therof to be putt to Afyne of vj^s viij^d oon halfe therof to the maire for the tyme beyng as trefoure of the town & the other halfe to the Comon weale of the feide craft euenly to be departed as often tymes os ony soo offendith. Also purveid hit is if ther be ony p^rson of the countre that makith ony Torche or Torchette & bryngeth hem to this town to be solde. That then the feide wardens & serchers have full power thoo Torches or Torchette to serche & ou^rsee And if they benot suffycyauntly made as it is Afore reherfed that then the feide Torche or Torchet to be forfett to the comon profett of this town. Allso ordeyned it is that non of the Artyficers of the fame crafte withinne this town dwellyng from this tyme forward goo ne sende ony other in his name to make ony Torche or Torchet owte of the fraunches of this town whiche torche or Torchet shalbe put to sale in this town or in ony other place thurgh the which ony deceyte or hurte myght growe to ony of thenhabitaunt^r of the feide towne or ony other of the kyngis liege peple in peyn of vj^s viij^d. the oon halfe therof to be paied to the town And the other halfe to the craft os ofte as ony soo offendith Also purveid it is that no foreyn p^rson what so eu^re he be hentforward take vpon hym withinne the fraunches of this town to make ony suche torche or torchette vndre the proteccyon or tucion of ony of thenhabitaunt^r of this town tille he furste giffe warnyng to the feide wardens for the tyme beyng. Thoo Torches or Torchette to serche and ou^rsee as it is Abovesaide in peyn of vj^s viij^d to be paied the oon halfe therof to the profet of the town The other halfe to the profet of the feide crafte euenly to be dep^rted

[Folio 68b.]

[Folio 69a.]

os often os ony soo offendith w'oute ony m^ocy in this behalfe hadd. Also ordeyned it is that the seide wardens & serchers for the tyme beyng shall Attende & be redy owther the toon or both or ellys sum op^r trusty body by the Assignment of the same wardens of the same occupacion for the tyme vpon resonable warnyng hadd by the seide torche maker to execute & doo all that in these ordynaunce is comprised and made vpon peyn of vi^s viij^d to be paied to the profet of this toun the oon halfe thereof. And the other halfe to the crafte evenly to be deputed os often tyme os ony soo offendith

[Folio 69b.]

ORDINACIO FACT TEMPE WILLI
AUSTYN MAIORIS P^r PISTENAR
ANNO RR EDWARDI QUARTI
SEPTIMO

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE
TIME OF WILLIAM AUSTYN³⁰⁸
MAYOR FOR FISHMONGERS IN
SEVENTH YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF KING EDWARD THE
FOURTH.

AD colloquum gen^oale ten^t in
Ecclia po^rhⁱ S^ci Egidij ville Nor-
hampton die mercurij p^r ante fⁱn^o
S^ci Dionisij m^ois Anno regni Regis
Edwardi quarti post conquestum
Septimo Per ex^omiam discrecion-
em Willⁱ Austeyn nunc d^oe ville
maioris Rob^ti Mose & Johnis
Spristowe itm^o Battioz & p^rAviam-
entū Ac consiliū xxiij^o Combur-
gentiū cum vnanimi Assensu & con-
sensu totius cōitatis ville p^rnotate
Sequens ordinacō & Statutum in
dei patris om̄ipotentis honorem &
ad salutem spūalem & corpalem
om̄i Cristianoꝝ tam infra d^oam
villam cōmovanc qm ad eandē
villam pueniment^o qntum

At a general conference held
in the parish church of S^t Giles
in the town of Northampton on
Wednesday [7th October, 1467]
next before the feast of S^t Denys
the Martyr in the seventh year
of the reign of King Edward the
Fourth after the Conquest by the
excellent discretion of William
Austeyn then mayor of the said
town Robert Mose and John Spris-
towe Bailiffs there and by the
advice and counsel of 24 burgesses
with the unanimous assent and
consent of the whole commonalty
of the town before mentioned
The following ordinance and
statute to the honour of God the
Father Almighty and to the health
spiritual and corporal of all Chris-
tian men as well dwelling within
the said town as resorting to the

[Folio 70a.]

³⁰⁸ William Austyn, or Austin, was mayor of the town in 1459-60, 1468-9, and 1476-7.

lex Anglie & consuetudo ville in
se exigunt & requirunt modo
edit^{us} est & stabilitum temporib^{us}
infuturis duratur put in lingua
mat^{ris}na Sequit^r inhec Verba

same town as far as the law of
England and the custom of the
town allow and require was lately
published and established to last
for future times as follows in our
mother tongue in these words

The kynges right and Rente with the Appropurtees of his
trewe liege people to the Courte of this Towne Sewters Atwell
Resident as non Resident hertely desyryn and prayen your good
Maisterhippes and good Willis in gen^{all} in this by halte to be
shewed. That for asomuch as of olde tyme hit hath ben vied
and Accustomed that all maner p^{er}sones sellyng eny maner see-
fyshe Atwell stokefish as eny other fyshe owe to kepe her stalles
and standing withinne the circuyte and place there Accustomed
w^{ithin}ne this seide town Accordyng to other Citees Townes and
Burghes within the Realme. Howe be it certeyn p^{er}sones for their
ppur and singler Avayle hath taken vpon hem to occupie and sell
suche man^{er} seefyshe owte of the seide place Assigned and Accu-
tomed of tyme withowte mynde. And also the seide p^{er}sones doon
occupie and v^{er}ien to shewe all maner of suche seefyshe vpon
bakstalles whiche be not Rented to the kyng our sou^{er}ayne Lorde
in p^{re}iudice of the seide kyngis Rent and diherityng his true liege
people. By youre great Wiidomys and iad Reasonns at this tyme
to pyvde ordeigne and stablishe That no p^{er}son fro thys tyme forwarde
take vpon them to sell any man^{er} seefyshe owte of the seide
place of olde tyme accotomed ne to shewe ony suche fyshe
vtwarde nor occupie ony suche bakstalle in peyn of forfetture
of all suche fyshe soo shewed in the contrarie the one halte
therof to the plite of this towne And the other halfe to the
sustynauce of the lightes in the high pace afore the Rode in the
Chirche of all halowes whiche hath beyn longe tyme mayntened
by the p^{er}sones sellyng suche maner fyshe And nowe they w^{ill}
drawe theyre devocyon therof by caus^e that certeyn p^{er}sones doo
stande owte of the Circuite and place of olde tyme accustomed And
occupyen and v^{er}ien suche bakstalles in p^{re}iudice of the kyng as it
is Afore comprised. Provided Allwey that be it liefull to all and
singler p^{er}sones to take availe and well recorde the terme yerely
eu^{er}y saturday in lenton which is the m^{ar}kett Assigned and non
other day in the yere but they kepe ther stallis whiche be rented
of the kyng and of dyu^{er}se other mennys in the m^{ar}kett place

see fische to be
sold at stalles
rentyd to the
kyng & not
ells where

[Folio 70b.]

Accostomed for eu^o in peyn of eu^oy p^one or p^ones occupyng contrary to this p^osent Acte to lese vj^o viij^d so that thei Accorde w^t the bailiff; for the tyme beyng whiche ben feoffermours to the kyng our sou^oayne lorde withinne this town

[Folio 71a.]

Et quo ad debi^l excu^l siue punicionem istius ordinac^{is} vel statuti p^olibati ad p^osens edi^l & stabili^l mandatū est decretum et determinatū vt istud statutū aut Actum scribatur in Registro Curie ville Norhampton in cēla Recorde ibm imppuū Remansu^r &c

And for the due execution or punishment of that ordinance or statute before mentioned published for the present time and established it was commanded decreed and determined that that statute or act be written in the register of the Court of the town of Northampton there for ever to remain among the other records &c

ORDINAC^o FACT^o P^o ART^o
PISTOR^o HOC ANNO

AD hustēg ten^l in Guyhald ville Nor^ht die lune p^o ante f^om S^oci Hugonis E^opi Anno regni Regis Edwardi quarti septimo p^o exemiam discrecionē Wi^llii Austeyn tunc dēe ville maioris Rob^oti mose & Joh^ois Spristowe ibm bailio^z et p^o auisiamen^l ac consiliū Wi^llii Paryn Thome Brafeld Thome Hunt Joh^ois Butteler et Joh^ois Hancock nup dēe ville maio^z ac Thome Saxby Joh^ois Asshburne Siōnis Balle Joh^ois Clerke & Joh^ois Harrys sen^o baker et qu^om pluri-
b; de xxiiij^o burgenē ad tunc ibm coūoca^l cum vnanimi assensu &

ORDINANCE MADE FOR THE
CRAFT OF BAKERS THIS YEAR

At a court of hustings held in the Guildhall of the town of Northampton on Monday [16th November, 1467] next before the feast of S^t Hugh the Bishop in the seventh year of the reign of King Edward the Fourth by the excellent discretion of William Austeyn²⁰³ then Mayor of the said town Robert Mose and John Spristowe Bailiffs there and by the advice and assent of William Paryn Thomas Brafeld Thomas Hunt John Butteler and John Hancock lately Mayors of the said town and Thomas Saxby John Asshburne Simon Balle John Clerke and John Harris Senior baker and several of the 24 bur-
gesses then and there summoned with the unanimous assent and

[Folio 71b.]

²⁰³ William Austyn, or Austin, was mayor of the town in 1459-60, 1468-9, and 1476-7.

concentu om̃ artificu artis p̃sto
ville predicte Sequens ordi-
naco & statutum in dei om̃i-
potentis honorem Aceciam ad
comodum & oportunitatem p̃stoz
infra villam Norht ṽitat̃ &
deinceps exercēdm quatum lex
Anglie & cosuetudo ville in
se exigunt & requirunt modo
edi⁹ est & stabili⁹ temporib;
infuturis duratū^r put lingua mat̃na
sequit^r in hec verba

consent of all workers of the craft
of bakers of the town aforesaid
The following ordinance and
statute to the honour of God Al-
mighty and also for the advantage
and convenience of the bakers
within the town of Northampton
practising or hereafter to practise
the craft as far as the law of Eng-
land and the custom of the town
allow and require was lately pub-
lished and established to last for
future times as follows in our
mother tongue in these words

bakers caryng
of bred to places
in the contrey
wher yt cannot
be wayed

That for allōmyche as certeyn & diuerse p̃ones of the seide
bakers bifore this tyme hath sente and late karye brede of all
man⁹ greyne owte of the ffraunches of this seide Towne into
diuerse townsheppis of the contre whiche brede hath bien often
spoken of and compleyned that it hath or shulde be made
deceitfully and non sufficiant weight to an vniū⁹all hurte of the
kinge liege people Causyng great Rumor and noyse to be spoken
to the dishonure of the maire for the tyme beyng and oppyn di-
claundre of the same town. In eschewyng wherof to late ordeyne
for this tyme forward that no baker of this town nother sende
ne late karie by any maner meane or sotiltie any maner of brede
owte of the ffraunches of this town where dewe serche &
correccyon may be done at all tymes in peyne of vi⁹ viij⁹ the
one halfe thereof to the profite to the Chaumbre of this Towne.
And the other halfe to the sustynauce of the lyghtes and torches
of the same crafte As often os ony so offendyth

[Folio 72a.]

Et quo ad debitū punitionem
sue executionem iūius ordinatōis
& statuti p̃libat ad presens edi⁹
& stabulitum mandatū est & de-
cre⁹ vt istud statutum aut actum
scribat^r in Registro curie ville
p̃dce inter cetera Recorde imppm
ibm Remanfur &c

And for the due punishment
or execution of that ordinance
and statute before mentioned
published for the present time
and established it was com-
manded and decreed that that
statute or act be written in the
register of the court of the town
aforesaid there to remain for
ever among the other records &c

ORDINACIO FACT̃ P̃ CÕES
JANTACULOS DIERZ DINCIS ANTE
CELEBRACOEM SUMME MISSE
HOC ANNO TEMPE WILLI
AUSTEN MAIOR ANNO RR
EDWARDI QUARTI SEPTIMJ

ORDINANCE MADE FOR
COMMON BREAKFASTS ON
SUNDAYS BEFORE THE
CELEBRATION OF HIGH MASS
THIS YEAR IN THE TIME OF
WILLIAM AUSTEN²⁸⁴ MAYOR IN
THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF KING EDWARD THE
FOURTH

Ad colloquum infra scriptum
ordinatum & stabilit̃ exstat put
subiequentia patz in Anglicis
verbis

At a conference below written
it is ordained and established as
subsequently appears in English

That no maner of p̃sone from this tyme forwarde whiche beyn
or hereaft̃ shall beyn withinne this towne and ffraunches of Nor-
hampton inhabitaunt dwellyng or Resident thall dyght ordeyne or
make any maner of vitall in her howses or places to sell nor kepe
occupie ne vse any ale sellyng to any maner of p̃sone or p̃sones
vpon the Sondayes vntille the high messe be done and holy brede
delte in theire piſsh Chyrche Where any ſuche p̃sone is abydyng
dwellyng or Reſydent vnder the payne to paye eũyche p̃sone
doyng the contrary at eũy tyme that any of hem be lawfully
proved defaultyng here Jnne vj^a viij^d to be levied and paid of
eũyche tranſgreſſour in this bihalfe vnto the profet of this Town
withoute any mercy or faver. Provided alwey that it be leſull to
all maner p̃sones to dight or deyne and make mete to ſuche
p̃sones as bien travellyng men or women aſwell of this Towne
as of the Cuntree paſſyng vpon her Jorneis and nedis or elles
any p̃sone efecked or holden with ſekenes so that it be nott
vnder ſubtilite fraude coloure or colyſion of any parte of this
ordinaunce or Acte vnder the ſeide peyne of vj^a viij^d to be leved
and paid of any p̃son so lawfully proved with any ſuche ſubtelite
fraude coloure or colyſion at eũy tyme ſoo offendyng withoute
fauer or mercy in any wiſe to be hadde. This Acte and or-
dinaunce to be Regeſtred and writen in the Regeſtre in the toun
of Norhampton amonge other actes and ordinaunce there to
remayne in ſtrenght and effecte of thiſe p̃miſſes imppetuall further-

for brekefaſt
aſſer the maſſe

[Folio 75b.]

[Folio 75a.]

²⁸⁴ William Austen, Austyn or Austin, was mayor of the town in 1459-60, 1468-9,
and 1476-7.

more it is enacted and prouyded and ordained from this tyme forwarde that noo maner of p[er]sone or p[er]sones As of the crafte of Cookys w[ithin] this Town inhabitaunt or dwellyng thallnot dyght ordeyng or make peyes or any other vytaill vppon the Sonday in eny maner Wyfe but oon assigned Allonly eu[er]y sonday of the seide Crafte to make & ordeyn pyes and other Vitaile in payne to paye to the meir for the tyme beyng vj^a As often as eny ben offendyn in p[er]missis

[Folio 73b.]

ORDINACIO FACT TEMPE WILLI
FFLOURE MAIORIS ANNO RR
HENRICI SEPTIJ QUINTO

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME
OF WILLIAM FLOURE ³⁶⁵
MAYOR IN THE FIFTH YEAR OF
THE REIGN OF KING HENRY
THE SEVENTH

MEMORANDUM qd die lune
p[ri]m[us] ante f[estum] Purificatois b[ea]te Marie
Virgis Anno regni Regis Henrici
septij post conq[ue]m quinto Ad huf-
teng tent[ur] in Guyhald ville Norht
p[er] discretionem & consiliu Willi
floure tunc ibm maioris Ric[i] Em-
son Recordatoris ibm Thome Hunt
Johis Clerke Simonis Brafelde
Willi Milly Willi Lynde Henrici
Humffrey & Thome Derby Ac
Alioz qm plurimoz de virginti qua-
tur comburgensib[us] suis. Acetiam
comodum & oportunitatem infra

MEMORANDUM that on Mon-
day [1st February, 1490] next
before the feast of the Purification
of the Blessed Virgin Mary in
the fifth year of the reign of King
Henry the Seventh after the Con-
quest At a court of hustings held
in the Guildhall of the town of
Northampton by the discretion
and counsel of William Floure
then mayor there Richard Em-
son ³⁶⁶ recorder there Thomas Hunt
John Clerke Simon Brafelde Wil-
liam Milly William Lynde Henry
Humffrey and Thomas Derby
and many others of the twenty-
four burgesses and also for the
advantage and convenience withm

³⁶⁵ William Floure, or Flower, was mayor of the town in 1490-1.

³⁶⁶ Richard Emson, or Empson, was said to have been the son of a poor sieve maker at Towcester. He was a member of parliament for Northamptonshire; and in 1491 was elected speaker of the House of Commons; he was knighted, and in 1504 became Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; he was also appointed recorder of Northampton and Coventry. Sir Richard Empson assisted Edmund Dudley in raising money for King Henry VII, by enforcing obsolete laws, and imposing exorbitant fines. Upon the King's death, both Empson and Dudley were committed to the Tower. Empson was tried at Northampton, 3rd October, 1509, and was beheaded with Dudley on Tower Hill in August, 1510.

villam North usitat⁹ & deinceps
ex²cende qu²tumlex Anglie & con-
suetudo ville in se exigunt & re-
quirunt modo edit⁹ est & stabilit⁹
temporib⁹ futuris duratur put in
lingua materna sequit^r in hec
verba

the town of Northampton prac-
tised and hereafter to be practised
as far as the law of England and
the custom of the town allow and
require was lately published and
established to last for future times
as follows in our mother tongue
in these words

Syn that many and diu²se vnfitting langage and seducious
and myse rule therof and vngodly gou²naunce hath longe tyme
reigned in the Borough and toun of Northampton Amonge then-
habytauntes ther and dwellers of the same And for A ppetuall peace to
be hadde Wee haue consyderid and ordered . first and princypally
pleasith god establishith parfite rest and tranquylite nore²stith and
encre²sith loue & charite emonge vs . The vni²uersall weale allwey
inhauncyng & flouryng causith plente and habundaunce and lawes
to haue their due cours²s . Justice be indyfferently mynystrid and
executed by theise be halues . And by the contrarye wey and vse
therof eniuen comocions stryues debates pouertye & miserie
& many other inconuenyence The pell and daungers whereof
must of reason be Arected and leide to the charges of thoo
p²sones hauyng Rule and Auctorite where eny mys²gou²naunce be
vied or haunted Be hit provided allwey for the more fyrmall
graunt to be establishid of this p²sent statute and ordynaunce
from this tyme and the tyme to come . That no man²e of p²son
or p²sones what degree or condycion soo eu² he bee That is
ffranchised and therto sworne to the lybtees ffredomes and
vsages of the for²seid toun before the meire for the tyme beyng .
but that he w² all his power and diligens to be Justifiable to
the meire and bailliff² of this toun that now bee hath bee &
shalbe The ffredomes and viages of the seide toun shal mayntene
to his power as more pley²nly to hym shalbe shewed at the
makyng of his othe . That noo man²e of p²son or p²sones of what-
someu² degree or condycion that eu² he bee That is A ffrenchised
man dwellyng or resty²nt within this seide toun and Borowe .
That hath in eny man² wise eny seducyouse Royotouse &
Maliciouse langage by the meire or by eny of theym that hath
byn meyres or by eny other of the xxiiiijth . comburgesse² of the
forseide toun . In sclaundryng or appeyryng their good name and
fame or eny of theym in eny man² of vntrouth or eny other

for Raylyng
vpon the maior
or any of the
xxiiij

[Folio 74a.]

In p²mis .

[Folio 74b.]

Ryotouse & seducyouse langage In hynderyng appeyryng or
 dispōnyng eny of them by sufflycaunt proves made therof byfore
 the meire and his counsell for the tyme beyng. That then that
 pōne or pōnes that so noyith selaundryth or defamyth eny of
 theym Above reherfed And therin be founden defectyve & gylty
 before the meire & his counsell That then the forleide pōne or pōnes
 pay to the meyre for the tyme beyng As comyn Tresoure of the
 forleide toun xl^s yif that he bee of Abylytee and power to pay
 the seide xl^s. flurthermore yif the seide pōne or pōnes be not
 Able ne of power for to pay the seide xls. That then they
 remayne in prisoun there xx^d dayes by the discretyon of the meire
 and his counsell at their pleasur disponable This Acte & or-
 dynaunce to be Affermyd and establihd in the Regesture
 emongeste other ther to Remayne Infynytly to endure

[Folio 75a.]

INCIPIT IUDICIŪ PILLOR &
 TUMBERELL

HERE BEGINS THE JUDGEMENT
 OF THE PILLORY AND
 TUMBREL

SI PISTOR conuictus fuit vel
 brasiatrix conuict⁹ qd istas assisas
 subsequen⁹ non S⁹uau⁹int. primo.
 S^{do} & tertio Am⁹ciet^r s^{dm}
 quantitatem delicti si non ²⁰⁷ g⁹uit
 deliquerint plures & castigari nol-
 uerint paciant^r iudiciū corporis S.
 pistor collistrigiu brasiatrix trobu-
 chetū vel castigatoriū. Primo sex
 legales hoies iurent fidelit⁹ collig⁹e
 omnes mensuras ville. videlet bus-
 selles di busselles galloū potell
 quart⁹ tam de tabnis q^m de alijs.
 vlnas & pondera. S. libras tronas
 Ac minora pondera villa⁹ p que
 ponderant^r panes in Cu^r. scit de

IF A BAKER or a maltster
 shall have been convicted that
 they have not kept these follow-
 ing assizes for the first second
 and third time let him be fined
 according to the amount of the
 fault if they have not offended
 seriously more often and refuse
 to be corrected ²⁰⁸ let them suffer
 corporal punishment that is to
 say a baker the pillory the malt-
 ster the ducking stool or tumbrel
 In the first place six liege men
 must swear faithfully to collect
 all the measures of the town
 namely bushels half-bushels gal-
 lons pottles and quarts as well
 from the taverns as other places
 ells and weights that is to say

²⁰⁷ This non appears to be redundant here.

²⁰⁸ Or "to amend their ways after being fined."

quott gen^e panis vnū panem. Et
 sup mensur vnas & pondera &
 etiam sup singlos panes scribant
 nōia eoꝝ distincte quoꝝ sint et men-
 sur vni colligant. Postea iurent.
 xij . legales hōies fidelit⁹ re-
 ipondeṛ ad int⁹ogata ab eis ex
 pte Rs querat⁹ ab eis que³⁰⁹
 scripta sunt & siqua sint secreta p-
 ponant secrete & puatim respond-
 eant. Et mandet^r ballis qd heant
 corpora oñu pistoꝝ & brasiatric
 vna cum mensur & oñibz Alijs
 sup^adictis. Primo querat^r de ven-
 ditone frumenti videlit^r quomodo
 vendebat^r vlt⁹ die m⁹cati quart⁹
 melioris frumenti & quomodo
 quart⁹ minoris frumenti et quo-
 modo quart⁹ t⁹tij p⁹tij & quomodo
 quart⁹ ordeī & Aueaz Postea quo-
 modo respondeant panes pistoꝝ in
 Cuī sua videlit^r wastelli & Alij

the pounds trons and smaller
 weights of the towns by which
 loaves are weighed in the court
 that is to say one loaf of every
 kind of bread And upon the
 measures ells and weights and also
 upon the different loaves must be
 written distinctly the names of
 the persons whose they are and
 they must tie the measures to-
 gether Afterwards 12 liege men
 must swear faithfully to answer
 to what is asked of them on behalf
 of the king enquiry must be made
 of those names that are written
 marks must be secret they must
 determine secretly and make an-
 swer in private And charge must
 be given to the bailiffs that they
 have the bodies of all the bakers
 and maltsters together with the
 measures and all other things
 named above First enquiry must
 be made about the sale of corn
 namely for how much there was
 sold on the last market day a
 quarter of better corn and for
 how much a quarter of second
 best corn and for how much a
 quarter of the third value and
 for how much a quarter of bar-
 ley and oats Afterwards they
 must enquire how the loaves of
 the bakers correspond in court
 namely wastels and other loaves
 whether according to the sale
 of the better value or of the

[Folio 75b.]

³⁰⁹ This is somewhat obscure.

panes Sēdm venditoem melioris
 pt^o aut minoris Aut t^otij ptij Itm
 p quanto incremento in quartis
 frumenti venditōe debeat pistoz
 mutare assisam eam & pondus
 panis sui. Jtm quantū debeat pon-
 derare wastell de q^a & omēs Alij
 panes Sēdm venditoem quart^oij
 frumenti quam p^osentant. Itm p
 quanto defēu ponderis panis de
 q^a pistor debeat Am^ociari vel
 subire iudicm pillo^o Sēdm con-
 suetudinem Cu^o sue Jtm si aliquis
 senescallus vel ballis p aliqua in-
 cede remis^oit iudicm pillorie vel
 tumbrell adjudicatū vel de iure
 adjudicande. Jtm si heat^o pilloria
 in villa debite forcitudinis Sēdm
 quod ptinet ad libtatem m^ocati
 qua vti possit si necesse fu^oit et
 sine piculo corporis hōis vel
 mulieris. Postea querat^o de Assis
 venditōe vini post recessum Justic
 itin^oant^o vel eo^o qui fuerunt vlt^o
 in officio m^ocati in villa videit de
 noib^o vineta^o et p quanto vendi-
 derunt Sexta^o vini Jtm si Aliquod
 vinū sit in villa corruptū & quod
 corpori hōis non est sanū De assisū
 s^ouis^o in Cu^o vill quat sit & si ob-
 seruet^o sin autem que brasiatrics
 vendiderunt cont^o assiaz & nōia

[Folio 76a.]

second best or of the third value
 Also for what increase in the
 quarter in the sale of corn the
 baker ought to change that
 assize and the weight of his loaf
 Also how much the wastel loaf
 ought to weigh and all other
 loaves according to the selling
 price of a quarter of corn which
 they present Also for what de-
 ficiency of weight of a loaf a
 baker ought to be fined or to
 undergo judgement of the pillory
 according to the custom of their
 court And also if any steward
 or bailiff for any bribe shall have
 remitted the judgement of the
 pillory or tumbrel adjudged or
 rightly to be adjudged Also if
 there be a pillory in the town of
 suitable strength according to
 what belongs to the liberty of
 the market which can be used
 if necessary and without danger
 to the body of man or woman
 Afterwards enquiry must be
 made about the assizes in the
 sale of wine after the departure
 of the justices itinerant or of
 those who last were in office of
 the market in the town namely
 about the names of the vintners
 and for what price they sold a pint
 of wine Also if there be in the
 town any wine spoiled or that is
 not wholesome for a man's body
 Also about the assize of ale in
 the court of the town what it is
 and if it be observed but if what
 the maltsters sold was contrary

eorū distincte p̄sentent & p̄ quōt delicto Am̄ciari debent vel pati iudm̄ tumbrell si contra assisam vendiderunt Jtm̄ si qui sint in villa qui p̄ vnam menturam emunt & p̄ aliam vendunt Jtm̄ si quis vtat' falsis vlnis vel falsis pōderibz aut menturis Jtm̄ si qui carnifices vendunt carnes suffematas vel de morte morina Jtm̄ de Cocis si qui decoquant carnes vel pisces in pane vel aqua vel alio modo non sanas humano corpori vel postq̄m talia tenuerunt Jta qd debitam naturam amiserunt eas recalefaciunt & v̄dunt Jtm̄ de florestallaſ qui ante debitam horam in villa statutam Aliquid emunt cont^a statut^o ville & mercati vel qui exeant villam rebz venalibz obuiantes & ext^a villam emant vel in villa ea carnes vendant ad regratores q̄m fac^oent hij qui eas alportabunt si mercato fuissent Jtm̄ quando quat^oij ordeī vendit' p̄ ij^a vj^d tunc vij lagen p̄ ij^a quando pro ij^a tunc tres lagene ad j^a quando p̄ ij^a vj^d tunc v lagen p̄ ij^a sic deinceps crescet' & adminuet' p̄ sex denarios Et sciend' est qd pistor inueniat' panis quad-

to the assize they must both distinctly present their names and for what offence they ought to be fined or suffer judgement of the tumbrel if they have sold contrary to the assize Also if there be any in the town who buy by one measure and sell by another Also if any man use false ells or false weights of measures Also if any butchers sell meat measled or that died of cattle plague Also about cooks if any boil down meat or fishes in bread or water or any other way not wholesome for a man's body or after they have kept such things so long that they have lost their due nature if they warm them up again and sell them Also about forestallers who before the statutory hour in the town buy anything contrary to the statutes of the town and market or who go out of the town to meet goods for sale and buy them outside the town or sell meat in the town to regraters at a higher price than they would have done who were bringing them in if they had been in the market Also when a quarter of barley is sold for 2s 6d then 7 gallons are to be sold for 2d when for 3s then 3 gallons for 1d when for 3s 6d then 5 gallons for 2d and so continually let it be increased and deminished for every sixpence And it must be known that if a baker be found

[Folio 70b.]

rantis in descū ponderis ij^s vj^d & infra am^ociet^r stet si num^oum illum excedat subeat iudiciū pillo^r & non remittat^r iudic delinquenti p auro nec Argento et quitt pitor heat ppr^m signū sup quodlit genus panū suor &c Pilloria siue collustrim & tumbrellum continue habeant^r debite fortitudinis . Ita qd delinquentm exequi possit iudiciū sine corpo^r piclo Tolnetum ad molendinū Sēdm consuetudinem Angl & Sēdm fortitudinem cursūs aque capiat^r ad xx g'nū vel ad xxiiij granū Et mensura p quam tolnetū capi debeat sit concordans cum mensura dñi Regis & capiat^r tolnetū p rasum & non cum cumulu Et firmarij inueniant molendinarijs necessaria ita qd nich capiant nisi debitū tolnetum et si aliter faciunt grauit^r am^ocietur

Aūsā vini Sēdm aās dñi regis obseruet^r & sextarm ad xijd Et si tabnarius aās excedat p maiorem & baltios cessam ostiū tabna claudat^r & non pmittat^r vinū

deficient in weight a farthing a loaf when corn is at 2s 6d and less let him be fined if he exceed that amount let him undergo judgement at the pillory and the judgement may not be remitted to the delinquent for gold or silver And every baker must have his proper mark upon every sort of his loaves &c The pillory or collustringum and the tumbrel must be kept continually of due strength so that the judgement of delinquents can be carried out without danger to their bodies Toll at the mill must be taken according to the custom of England and according to the strength of the watercourse⁷⁰ at 20 grain or 24 grain And the measure by which the toll ought to be taken must agree with the measure of our lord the King and the toll must be taken scraped flat and not heaped And the farmers must find what is necessary for the millers so that they take nothing but the toll due and if they do otherwise let them be heavily fined

The assize of wine must be kept according to the assizes of our lord the King and a pint for 12d And if the innkeeper exceed the assize granted by the mayor and bailiffs let the door of the inn be shut and he not permitted to sell

⁷⁰ Perhaps meaning a twentieth or twenty-fourth part of the corn sent to be ground.

donec a dño rege vel eius
 o licentiam optinuerit
 iñs sēdm venditōm bladi
 latuat' pclamet' & obier-
 d brafiatrix non accrescat
 em in galone nisi p xijd
 in quarto brasij Et qui
 iñs fregerunt primo sēdo
 fiet' et quarto sine re-
 subeant iudm tumbrell

fex qui vendit carnes
 supiennua? sessemittas vel
 morina vel emat carnes
 & vendat Xpianis post-
 o conuictus iñit Am'ciet'
 do conuict' subeat iudiciū
 tertio incarceret' & red-
 quarto abiuret villam.
 iudicm fiat cocis transgre-
 &c

ardi bushelli galoñ vñe
 a Regis ferrato signent'
 et saluo custodiant' sub
 iñbraz. Et nulla mensura
 nisi cum mensura dñi
 concordans & sigill com-
 gnat' Et siquis emat vel

wine until he shall have obtained
 license from our lord the King or
 his marshal. The assize of ale
 must be determined proclaimed
 and kept according to the selling
 price of grain and malt so that
 the maltster must not raise the
 price a farthing in a gallon unless
 there be an increase of 12d in a
 quarter of malt And they who
 break the assize of ale the first
 second and third time must be
 fined and the fourth time without
 redemption must undergo the
 judgment of the tumbrel &c

A butcher who sells measled
 pork or meat dead from the cattle
 plague or who buys meat from
 Jews and afterwards sells it to
 Christians when convicted the
 first time must be fined heavily
 when convicted the second time
 he must undergo the judgement of
 the pillory the third time he must
 be imprisoned and redeemed and
 the fourth time he must abjure the
 town And this must be the
 judgement for cooks that trans-
 gress &c

[Folio 77a.]

The standard bushels gallons
 and ells must be stamped with
 the iron mark of our Lord the
 King they must be diligently
 kept in safe custody under a
 penalty of one hundred pounds
 And there must be no measure
 in the town not agreeing with
 the measure of our Lord the
 King and stamped with the mark
 of the county And if any one

vendat p mensuram non signat^o p
 Maiorem & ballios examinat^o g^ouit^o
 am^ocietur. Omnes mesure ville.
 maiores et minores bis in anno vel
 sepius videant^r & examinentur. Si
 quis de^ophenfus fuit cum duplici
 mensura scit^o maiori ad emende
 & minori ad vendend tanq^m fal-
 sonarius imprisonet^r & g^ouit^o puni-
 atur Standardi bushelli galoⁿ vne
 & sign^o quo mensur^o signanda sunt
 sint in custodia Maioris & ballioz
 & sex legali^u hoi^m de villa iuratoz
 coram quibz omnes mesure sig-
 nande signent^r. Nullum genus
 bladi vendat^r. p cumul^u vel p of-
 sellum p^o Aueⁿ brati^u & farinam
 Et p^ocipue ex pte dⁿⁱ Regis p^ocept^o
 qd nullus foristallarius in villa
 paciat^r commorari qui paup^u est
 depresso^r manifeste & totius comi-
 tatus & patrie publicus inimicus
 qui blada pisces Allec vel res Alias
 quacumqz venales quandoqz
 p terram quandoqz p Aquam
 obuiano p^ocessis festinant qui mer-
 catores ext^oneos cum rebz venalibz
 obuiantes offerentes se vendioi
 rez suaz & augent eis qd bona sua
 carnis vendere potunt qm ppone-

buys or sells by a measure not
 stamped upon examination by
 the mayor and bailiffs he must
 be heavily fined All measures
 of the town large and small must
 be seen and examined twice in
 the year or oftener If any one
 shall have been detected with a
 double measure that is a larger
 for buying and a smaller for sell-
 ing he must be imprisoned as a
 forger and severely punished
 The standard bushels gallons and
 ells and the stamp with which
 the measures are to be stamped
 must be in the custody of the
 mayor and bailiffs and six liege
 men sworn from the town in
 whose presence all the measures
 to be stamped must be stamped
 No kind of corn must be sold
 by the heap or "ossellum" ex-
 cept oats malt and meal And
 especially on behalf of our Lord
 the King it is ordered that no
 forestaller shall be allowed to
 dwell in the town who is mani-
 festly an oppressor of the poor
 and a public enemy of the whole
 county and country who hasten
 before the rest sometimes by
 land and sometimes by water to
 get corn fish herrings and any
 other things whatsoever offered
 for sale who go to meet the
 strange merchants with goods
 for sale offering themselves as
 salesmen of their goods and raise
 the price because they will be
 able to sell their goods at a

Nota

[Folio 77b.]

bant et sic arte vel ingenio villam
seducunt & priam Primo conuict-
us Am^ociet g^uiſ s^edo subiciat
iudiciū pillorie . Tertio incarceret^r
& redimat^r. Quarto abiuret villam
Et hoc iudiciū fiat de forestallarijs
vniūſis et simili^r de hijs qui auxiliū
vel consiliū prestant vel fauorem
Omnes vero culpabiles Attachi-
ati in p^rmissis ei p Am^ociamenta
castigari noluerint & plures de-
liquerint g^uiſ sustineāt iudiciū
corpo^r suo^r ut pillor & triboche-
tum put sup^adēm est

higher price than they intended
and so by craft and subtlety be-
guile the town and country When
first convicted he must be heavily
fined the second time he must
undergo the punishment of the
pillory the third time he must be
imprisoned and redeemed the
fourth time he must abjure the
town And this must be the
judgment on forestallers one and
all and similarly for those who
help advise or favour them All
men worthy of blame arrested
in the premisses if they refuse
to be corrected by fines and
offend many times grievously
must undergo corporal punish-
ment at the pillory and tumbrel
as is aforesaid

LUCRUM PISTORIS &C

NOTA qd pitor potest tenere
Ass & lucrare in quotit quartio
frumenti put ordinat est p pistor
dñi Regis iijd & le bryne &
tres pañ ad furnagiū Et p iij
s^uient iijd . et p vno s^uient qd
Et in Sale ob et in yeeſt videlt
barme ob et in candel qd & in
focal iijd Et in vno bultell ob
Pañ dñi ponderabit min^a sym-
nello p ijs Panis francisc^u pon-
derabit min^a dñico p ijs

THE PROFITS OF A BAKER &c

NOTE that a baker can keep
the assize and gain in every quar-
ter of corn as is ordained by our
Lord the King's baker 4d and the
bran and 3 loaves for payment for
for use of his oven And for 3 ser-
vants 3d and for 1 servant ½d And
in salt ½d and in yeast that is barm
½d and in candle ½d and in fuel 3d
and in one sieve ½d "panis dom-
inicus" shall weigh less than
"simnel bread" by 2s "panis
franciscus" shall weigh less than
"panis dominicus" by 2s

STATUTUM PONDERIBUS & MENSURIS

Itm ordinat est p magnam
Cartam . E . quond Reg Angl

STATUTE FOR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

ITEM it was ordained by the
great charter of Edward formerly

[Folio 78a.]

Anno regni sui xxvi^{to} Et p statutum Regis Ricⁱ S^ci Anno regni sui tridecimo quod vnū pondus & vna mensura sit p totum regnū Angl Et qd pondus de Auncell sit dampnat^u et qd omnes res ponderabit & vendibit sint ponderat^u p balaunse & qd le balaunse non magis inclinat ad vnam finem qam ad alt^{ra}m finem Et qd pondera sint concordant^u cum ponderib^z de le standard in Sec^oio R & illi faciunt cont^{ra}riū in venditiō foris faciunt domino Regi valorem dic rez sic vendit^u ponderat^u sine mensur et soluent d^eo querent quadripl^{ic} damp. Et vlt^{us} p statutū d^ei Regis Ricⁱ ordinat^u est qd d^ei transg^{ress}ores erunt incarcerati p duos Annos & facient finem & redemptiōem ad voluntat^{em} R^e &c Et qd Justicⁱ de pace habunt potestatem adinquirende de tlib^z ponderib^z & mensur Adeo bⁿ ad secl^u partis qm ad secl^u Regis &c

It^{em} ordinat^u est qd omnis Ciuitas Burgo & villa infra regnū Anglie heat vnū cōe balaunse & vnum cōe pondus concordant^u ad standard Sec^oij sup^{ra} d^ei cū exp^{re} p^{re} totius commutat d^eaz Ciuitat^u

King of England in the 26th year of his reign and by statute of King Richard the Second in the 13th year of his reign that there should be one weight and one measure through the whole realm of England and that weight by Auncel should be condemned and that all things for weight and sale should be weighed by balance and that the balance should not lean more to one side than the other and that the weights should correspond with the weights of the standard in the King's Treasury and that they who do contrary in selling shall forfeit to our Lord the King the value of the said things so sold weighed without measure and shall pay to the said complainant his loss fourfold And further by statute of the said King Richard it was ordained that the said transgressors shall be imprisoned for two years and shall pay fine and redemption at the King's will &c And that the Justices of the Peace shall have power to make enquiry about such weights and measures as well at the suit of a party as at the suit of the King &c

Also it was ordained that every city borough and town within the realm of England should have one common balance and one common weight corresponding to the standard of the treasury aforesaid at the cost of the community of the said cities

Burgū & villarū sup^adictⁱ ltm
 Maiores aut Constabilarⁱ dcaz
 Ciuitatⁱ burgū aut villarū habent
 custodiam de lez balaunse & pon-
 deribz sup^a dictⁱ et qd hōies
 inhabitantⁱ deⁱ Ciuitatⁱ Burgū aut
 villⁱ habent mensurē & pondera
 sup^adictⁱ libe sine cont^adictiōe
 Aliquat quociens necessē fuit Et
 omnes Alij ex^anei qui occupant
 dictⁱ mensurē & pondera soluent
 in manibz dōis Ciuitatⁱ burgū aut
 ville p quotit xxx infra pondus
 de xl li. j. q^a et p quotit xxx.
 inf^a xl li & C li j ob et p quotit
 xxx infra. C li & ml li. j d et sic
 crescend p xxx. ad tantam sumam
 quant^u de balaunse portabit p dis-
 cretione Maioris aut Constⁱ
 dcaz Ciuitatⁱ burgū aut villⁱ. Et
 qd Justicⁱ de pace hēt potestatem
 ad examinand & inquirend de omibz
 ponderibz & mensuris Aliquo
 modo male vsitat^u cont^a formam
 p^rdictam aut incrochiand aut dim-
 inuend siue de ponderibz vel de
 impedimento de le balauns & de
 suo natural cursu sup^adicta foris-
 fact & penas sup^adcas Et qd Jus-
 ticⁱ de pace Maiores & balli &
 senescall de visu ff^anc hēt po-
 testatem special ad exāiand &
 inquirend de talibz t^rnsgressoribz

boroughs and towns aforesaid
 Also the mayors or constables
 of the said cities boroughs or
 towns shall have the custody of
 the balances and weights afore-
 said and that the inhabitants of
 the said cities boroughs and
 towns shall have the measures
 and weights aforesaid freely and
 without refusal to any one as
 often as there shall be necessity
 and that all other strangers
 who use the said measures and
 weights shall pay into the hands
 of the said city borough or town
 for every 30 below the weight of
 40lbs $\frac{1}{4}$ d and for every 30 be-
 tween 40lbs and 100lbs $\frac{1}{4}$ d and
 for every 30 between 100 and
 1000lbs 1d and so increasing by
 30 to such a sum as the balance
 will carry by the discretion of
 the mayor or constable of the
 said cities boroughs or towns
 and that the justices of the peace
 have power to examine and en-
 quire about all weights and
 measures in any way misused
 contrary to the form aforesaid
 either as to excess or deficiency
 in the weights or about a defect
 in the balance and its natural
 direction ²⁷¹ the aforesaid forfeits
 and penalties And that the
 justices of the peace mayors
 bailiffs and stewards of manorial
 courts have special power to
 examine and enquire about such
 transgressors against the ordi-

[Folio 78b.]

²⁷¹ This is obscure, it appears as if some words were omitted.

sup^a ordinacōem sup^adeam & ad faciend & exequend de ilibz qui inueniunt^r defectuosi put in forma p^dca sup^adem est. Et qd dēt ordinacō teneat^r & obieruet^r. A festo Pasch p^a seqⁿ vīqz inet^o nū &c In omī Ciuitate sub pena. x ti. Jtm in quot burgo sub pena. c s. Jtm in quatt villa vel indefcū cuiusit constab sub pena xls. Et qd sint vnū balaunse & pondera sup^adicta concordant^o cū le standard S^ccij sup^adei infra duas men^o p^a post p^aclamat^o fact^o de p^adict^o ordinatōe sup^a pen sup^adict^o soluend ad opus dñi Regis quotiens ptes p^adicti videh^t t^anc^o greiōres inuent^o su^oint defectuosi sup^a dēam p^aclamatōem &c

Si panis pistoris sit magne etatis vel delicatus visā etate allocabunt^r pistori p diem & noctem. vjd Et nota qd panes adherentes lat^oibz firm non debent ponderari ppt^o aduersionem. Et qui faciunt panem extra ass. Jta qd mini ponderant grauit^o Am^ociant^r et totum panem illum pdant &c

Et nota qd pañ quad^r de omni blad ponderabit tantum quantum ponderat pañ quad^r equiū et econt^a &c

nance aforesaid, and to act and take measures about such as are found in fault according as it is said above in the form aforesaid And that the said ordinance be kept and observed from the feast of Easter next following for ever &c in every city under the penalty of ten pounds also in every borough under the penalty of 100s also in every town under the penalty of 40s And that there be one balance and weights as aforesaid corresponding with the standard of the treasury aforesaid within two months next after proclamation made of the aforesaid ordinance under the penalty abovesaid of paying to the use of our Lord the King as often as the parties aforesaid namely the transgressors shall have been found at fault with respect to the said proclamation &c

If a baker's bread be of great age or dried up with apparent age there shall be assigned to the baker for a day and a night 6d and note that loaves firmly adhering to the bricks of the oven ought not to be weighed because of the scorching And they who make bread beyond the assize so that the loaves weigh very little must be heavily fined and lose all that bread &c

And note that the farthing loaf of every sort of corn shall weigh the same as a farthing loaf of horse-bread and the contrary &c

INCIPIT ASSISA PANIS IN
ANGLIA &c

Quando quartium frumenti
est p xij denar tunc panis
de wafello pondera-
bit x libras & sex decim solidos.
Et a de Coketto de eodem
& eodem bultello pondera-
bitur quam wafellus duobz solde
Coketto de eodem blado Mi-
nisterij ponderabit plusquam
illus de quinqz solde. Panis
de symonello bene cocto pon-
detur min^{us} wafello de duobz
solde. Panis vero integer de fru-
mento & de quadrante pondera-
bitur Coketum & dimidiu. Panis
de Treyte ponderabit duos
solidos. Et panis de omni blado
ponderabit duos coketos. Quando
frumentum frumenti venditur ad xvij
denar tunc panis albus & bene
de wafello & de quadrante
ponderabit iij li ix s viij d. Quar-
tium tunc ponderabit lxvijs.
Et ad ijs vjd. tunc pon-
detur liiij s iij d ob q^{uod}. Quartium
tunc ponderabit xlvijs.
Et ad iij s vjd. tunc xlijs.
Et ad iij s s^{extus} sol tunc pondera-
bitur xxxvjs. Quartium ad iij s vjd.
ponderabit xxxs. Quartium
tunc ponderabit xxvijs.
Et Quartium ad vs vjd. tunc
ponderabit xxiijs viij d q^{uod}. Quar-
tium ad vjs tunc ponderabit
xviij d Quartium ad vjs vjd

HERE BEGINS THE ASSIZE OF
BREAD IN ENGLAND &c

When a quarter of corn is
sold for 12 pence then a farthing
loaf of wastel shall weigh six
pounds and sixteen solidi Also
a loaf of cocket bread of the same
grain and the same bran shall
weigh more than wastel by
two solidi And cocket bread of
the same grain of less price
shall weigh more than wastel by
five solidi But a loaf of simnel
well baked shall weigh less than
wastel by two solidi But a whole
loaf of corn for a farthing shall
weigh a cocket loaf and a half
But a loaf of Treyte shall
weigh two wastel loaves And
a loaf of every [other] grain
shall weigh two cocket loaves
When a quarter of corn is sold
at 18d then a white and well
baked loaf of wastel for a far-
thing shall weigh 4l 9s 8d A
quarter at 2s then it shall
weigh 68s a quarter at 2s 6d
then it shall weigh 54s 4d a
quarter at 3s then it shall weigh
48s a quarter at 3s 6d then it
shall weigh 42s a quarter at 4s
then it shall weigh 36s a quarter
at 4s 6d then it shall weigh 30s
a quarter at 5s then it shall
weigh 27s 2d a quarter at 5s
6d then it shall weigh 24s 8d
a quarter at 6s then it shall weigh
22s 8d a quarter at 6s 6d then

[Folio 79b.]

[Folio 80a.]

ponderabit. xxs xjd. Quart^oiū ad vijs tunc ponderabit. xixs vd. Quart^oiū ad vijs vjd. tunc ponderabit xvij s. Quart^oiū ad vijs vjd tunc ponderabit xv s. Quart^oiū ad ix s tunc ponderabit. xvs q^a Quart^oiū ad ix s vjd tūc ponderxiiij s. iij d ob q^a Quart^oiū ad xs tunc ponder xiijs vij q^a Quart^oiū ad xs vjd tunc ponder xijs xjd q^a Quart^oiū ad xjs tunc ponderabit xijs iij d q^a Quart^oiū ad xjs vjd tunc ponderabit. xjs xd Quart^oiū ad xijs tunc ponderabit. xjs iij d. Assisa panis 1^m qd continet^r in scripto de marchalcia domini Regis eis libata teneat^r sēdm venditōem frumenti Silij melioris sēdi & trij & tam wastelli q^m omes alij panes cuiuscumq³ gen^ois sint venderent^r sēdm media veditōnem frumenti. Et non mittatur assisa nec pondvs nisi p sex denarijs crescentibz vel decrecentibz in venditōe quart^oij frumenti Et sciend est qd pistor potest lucrari in quolibet quartio frumenti vt probatum est p Pistores dñi Regis quatuor denareos & fursur suū & duos panes ad furnagiū & tribz s^oui-entibz jd ob Et duobz garcōibz ob. Jtm ad sal ob ad candet q^a ad busitam iij denaf. Et ad bulltellum locandum ob &c

it shall weigh 20s 11d a quarter at 7s then it shall weigh 19s 5d a quarter at 7s 6d then it shall weigh 18s 1½d a quarter at 8s then it shall weigh 17s a quarter at 8s 6d then it shall weigh 16s a quarter at 9s then it shall weigh 15s 0½d a quarter at 9s 6d then it shall weigh 14s 4½d a quarter at 10s then it shall weigh 13s 7½d a quarter at 10s 6d then it shall weigh 12s 11½d a quarter at 11s then it shall weigh 12s 4½d a quarter at 11s 6d then it shall weigh 11s 10d a quarter at 12s then it shall weigh 11s 4d The assize of bread according to what is contained in writing in the Marshalsea of our lord the King delivered to them must be kept according to the selling price of corn that is to say best second and third sorts as well wastells as all other loaves of whatever kind they may be must be sold according to the average price of corn And the assize must not be changed nor the weight except for a rise or fall of sixpence in the selling price of a quarter of corn And it must be known that a baker can make profit in every quarter of corn as is approved by the bakers of our lord the King four pence and his bran and two loaves for the use of his oven and for three servants 1½d and for two boy servants ½d Also for salt ½d for candle ½d for firewood 3d and for hire of sieve ½d &c

INCIPIT ASSISA CERUISIE

[Q]vando quartium frumenti vendit' ad tres solide . vel ad quadraginta denar . Et quart'iu Ordei ad viginti denar vel ad duos solide . Et quart' Auene ad xvj . denar vel ad xvij denar tunc debent et bene possunt Brasiatrices vendē in Ciuitatibz duas lagenas ad denar & extra Ciuitates tres lagenas ad denar & quando in Burgo vendent tres lagene ad denar extra Burgum debent vendi quatuor lagene ad denar . Ita alia est p totam Anglie ex provisione domini Regis &c

HERE BEGINS THE ASSIZE OF ALE

When a quarter of corn is sold at three shillings or at forty pence and a quarter of barley at twenty pence or at two shillings and a quarter of oats at sixteen pence or eighteen pence then the maltsters ought and are well able to sell in cities two gallons for a penny and outside the cities three gallons for a penny and when in a borough there shall be sold three gallons for a penny outside the borough there ought to be sold four gallons for a penny This assize is throughout the whole of England by provision of our lord the King &c

[Folio 8ob.]

COMPOSITIO POND & MENSURAZ

[P]er ordinatōem totius Regni Angl' fuit mensura dñi Regis composita videlet qd denarius Anglicanus qui vocatur sterlingus rotundus & sine tonsura ponderabit triginta duo g^{na} frumenti in medio Spice . Et vncia debet ponderare viginti denar . Et quindēcī vnce faciūt libram london Et octo libre frumenti faciunt galonem vini . Et octo galones frumenti faciūt bussellum london hoc est octauam ptem quart'ij . Duodecim libre & dimidia faciūt petram london . Saccus lane debet ponderar xxviiij . petras . Waya v^o tam blumbi q^m lane sepi & casei ponderat .

THE COMPOSITION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

By ordinance of the whole realm of England the measure of our lord the King was arranged namely the English penny called sterling round and unclipped shall weigh thirty two grains of corn in the middle of the ear and an ounce ought to weigh twenty pennies and fifteen ounces make a pound at London and eight pounds of corn make a gallon of wine and eight gallons of corn make a bushel at London that is the eighth part of a quarter twelve pounds and a half make a stone at London A sack of wool ought to weigh 28 stones but a way of lead wool tallow and cheese weighs

[Folio 81a.]

xiiij. petra et due waie lane faciunt vnū saccū et duodecim sacci faciunt le last. Et last v^o Alleciū continet decem miliaria & quolibz miliar continet denos centū & quodly Centum ex sexies viginti. last v^o Corioz constat ex viginti dakeres & quodly dakir constat ex decem corijs. Jtū Centena Rucarij cere pipis simini amigdalaz & allume continet. xiiij. petras & dimidiam & quolibet petra continet octo libr sum libraz in Centena Centum & octo libre & concistit le Centum ex quinquies viginti & quelz libra ex viginti & quinqz solidis. Sciend est qd libra denarioz speciez confectōum vt pote electuarioz concistit in ponderē viginti solidis. libra v^o aliax rez ponderat. xxv. solid Jtū in electuarijs confectioibz libra continet duodecim vncie et vncia concistit in pōderē xxd. Jtū Centena Bordi Canabi & binie cele constat ex Centum vlnis & Bordis & quolibz Centena ex sexies viginti. Centena v^o ferri constat ex quinquies viginti. Gaba v^o Calibis continet triginta pecias seem v^o vitriū constat ex triginta petris & quelibz petra ex quatuor lib & ita continet le seem sexies viginti libr. Bynda v^o Anguillaz constat ex decem stickes & quilibz sticka ex viginti & quinqz Anguill. Bynda v^o pelliū

14 stones and two weys of wool make one sack and twelve sacks make a last And then a last of herrings contains ten thousand and every thousand ten hundred and every hundred six score But a last of hides consists of twenty dickers and every dicker consists of ten hides Also a hundredweight of "rucarii" wax pepper cummin almonds and alum contains 13 stones and a half and every stone contains eight pounds The total number of pounds in a hundredweight is a hundred and eight pounds and the hundred consists of five score and every pound of twenty five shillings It must be known that a pound of pennies spices confections as electuaries is equal in weight to twenty shillings but a pound of other things weighs 25 shillings Also in electuary confections a pound contains twelve ounces, and an ounce is equal in weight to 20 pence Also a hundredweight of timber hemp and "binie cele" consists of a hundred ells and planks and every hundredweight of six score but a hundredweight of iron consists of five score But a gaba of iron contains twenty pieces and a seem of glass consists of thirty stones and every stone of four pounds and so the seem contains six score pounds And a bind of eels consists of ten sticks and every stick of twenty-five eels And a bind of skins

contains thirty-three skins but a
 "tymbra" of rabbit skins and bad-
 skins consists of forty skins A
 of "fustian" consists of 13
 chief of linen contains 10 ells
 rees allium" contains
 and each slone of 25
 Also a hundredweight of
 wells and hard fish consists
 of eight score &c

[Folio 81b.]

LA TEMPE JOHIS SAXBY MAIOR ANNO R̄R
 R VIIJ PRIMO PRO ARTE HELLATAR
 MADE IN THE TIME OF JOHN SAXBY²⁷³ MAYOR IN
 FIRST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VIII
 FOR THE TILERS' CRAFT]

[T the comon Semble holden in the Guyhald in the Towne
 of Norh^mpton the fryday [Friday, 18th May, 1509] after
 ft of the Assencyon of oure lorde The fyrst yere of the Reign
 e souayn lorde kyng henry the viijth by the examynacyon &
 te discreffyon of John Saxby mayre of the seide townn of
 mpton with the full compremysfyon of his Cobrethern wyth
 xiiijth comburgeffe of the forseide toun to hym sworne And
 with the hoole assent and consent of the hole body of the
 toun Jn consideraçon of the p^rmysse Where the Crafte of
 s and Sclatiers of the seide town pytyously shewyth &
 ayneth theym for as muche As many & diu^se of the seide
 acion occupieth within the toun aswell foryners and straungers
 hose that bien vnfraunchisede as we that byn sworne and
 hised By the wiche moche warke is not sufficyently doon
 vrought as it ought for to be to the greate hurte losse of
 that doo fett theym a warke By the wych many seducyose
 and clamour rifythe of the seide occupaçon as well of
 that workyth sufficiently & truly as of theym that workyth
 tfully Wherfor it is ordeyned and stabliffed for euermor for
 yv²fall wele of the seide toun That ther shalbe two mastirs

For scatears
 or helyars.

[Folio 82a.]

John Saxby or Saxbee was mayor of the town in 1509-10, 1520-1, & 1532-3.
 This ordinance is written by a later hand.

[Folio 82b.]

of the same Crafte to be electe and chofen for the yer enfuyng and for that yer to come before the maire for the tyme beyng in the Guyhald to take their othes that they fhall truely and fuerly to oure see and ferche of and all maner of defaltes & treſpafes doon or made in the ſeide Crafte of Hilliers & ſclatiers in the ſeide toun of Norhampton for the tyme beyng And that the ſayde maſters to fertyfy & make relacon of ſuche hurtyes harmes & loſſes to the maire for the tyme beyng what pſone or pſones treſpafyſh or offendith w^ought eny conſeilment therof in payne therof to pay to the maire of the ſeide toun for the tyme beyng xx^d And to the maſters of the ſeide crafte for the tyme being other xx^d to the ſuſtenaunce & mayntenynge of ther light be fore oure lady in the freoure prechers²⁷⁴ in Norh^mpton for the tyme beyng .And furthermore that no maner of ſtraunger that comyth to the toun of Norht for to worke ther noo man^o of warke wⁱn this toun but yf he worke vnder or wyth that man that is fraunchiſede & ſworne to the liberties & freedoms of the ſeide toun to the ſame occupacion belongyng In payne to paye to the maire for the tyme beyng xij^d And alſo other xij^d to be payed to the maſters of the ſeid Crafte to the ſuſtenaunce & maynteyng of their ſeide light for the tyme beyng .moreo^{re} it is graunted to the ſeide maſters of the ſeide Crafte for the tyme beyng to call and ſommen all thoſe pſones belongyng or appteynyng to the ſame Crafte wythin the ſeide toun of Norht for to appere Afore theym at the howſe of the blak freours in the ſeide toun of Norht as oftyn as ſhall deme neceſſary for the vniuſall wele of the ſeide Crafte of hilliers and the goode Rule & ordre of the ſame Crafte in tymes to come .Alſo yf any pſone or pſones reſuſe ſoo to doo And come not att their dewe ſomonyſ Accordyngly to their ordenaunce here expreſſed furthermore what pſone or pſones that offendyth or treſpailith in this be halfe Then he or they to paye to the maire of the ſeide toun for the pſent tyme beyng jti of wexe And alſo another pounce of wexe to the maſters of the ſeide Crafte for the tyme beyng to the ſuſtentacon & mayntenynge of their light befor oure lady ther at the ſeide place of blake freours wth lycenſe Aſbyd or a reſonable cauſe of lette proued .Afore the meire for the tyme beyng .The which acte & ordenaunce to ſtonde in his full ſtrenght emonge other

²⁷⁴ The Houſe of the Black Friars was the ſame as the Houſe of the Friars Preachers, before mentioned, in the Horſe Market, Northampton.

ordenaunce; in the seide toun of Norhampton for euer to endure [Folio 83a.]
 In wittnes wherof We the seide John Saxby wyth my Cobrethern
 & w^t the hole body of the seide toun of Norhampton to this
 present writyng haven setto the seall. of the office of meryaltye of
 the seide toun of Norhampton the day & yere Above wreton &c

ORDINACIO FFACIT TEMPE JOHIS HILTON MAIOR P^r ARTE TEXTOR [Folio 83b.]
 AN^o RR HENR VIIJ TERCIO &c

[ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF JOHN HILTON²⁷⁵ MAYOR
 FOR THE WEAVERS' CRAFT IN THE THIRD YEAR OF
 THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VIII.]

[A]t A comyn semble holden in the Guyhalde of the town of
 Norhampton the fridaie [Friday, 19th December, 1511] next by
 fore the fest of seint Thomas the Appostell in the thyrd yer of the
 Reigne of oure soueynge lord kyng Henr the viijth by the assent
 of John Hilton then beyng maier of the same town his xxiiij Com-
 burgez with all the Coñnaltie of the seide town ther beyng p^rsent
 it is Accordid condecendid & aggrede for eu^r to endure that noo
 weu^r wⁱⁿ the f^runches & libties of this town shall take of noo cloth-
 maker within the same town dwellyng no lesse stufte for to make
 a cloth of cut as moche yarneas wyll make a sufficiant clothe
 As hath byn vsed to be made in tymes paste And that they shall
 delyu^r no clothe of ther owen nor of non other mannys ougte of
 their howses vnto tyme that the serchers of the same occupacon
 wiche be sworne haue sene proved and vewed that hit be suf-
 ficiauntlye woven & goode warkmanshipe theropon to make goode
 clothe of And that all suche p^rsones as be serchers & sworne for
 the tyme beyng shall see eu^ry clothe drawn ou^r the beme or it
 passe the weu^r house And yf that they either for losse of favoure do
 not trewly their deutie accordyng to their othes that then thei to
 be at suche fyne as shall be thowght resonable by the meir for the
 tyme beyng & his Councell And what weu^r so eu^r ther be that do
 not send for the seide serchers of his occupacon When his clothe
 is woven to see it he or they that doth the contrarie therin or in
 Any of theise articles or ordinaunce; beforeseide shall lose & paie

[Folio 84a.]

²⁷⁵ John Smith was mayor of the town in 1512-3, and dying during his year of
 office, John Hilton was elected mayor in his stead.

as ofte as thei or any of them ſo dothe offend xl^s the oon halfe therof to be paied to the meir for the tyme beyng as Comyn trefoure for the towne And the other halfe to be paiede to the fraternyte of the trynnyte within the chyrche of all holowys of the ſame towne And that no maner pſone off what Eſtate degree of condicon ſoeu he be that dothe Attempt in Any tyme to come to the breche or hurtyng of Any of theſe ordinaunce; beforeſeide ſhall & paie to the towne xiiij^s iiij^d with ougt fauoure or ydon as ofte as they ſoo dothe offend in that behalfe Provided alwey that theſe ſtatute; & ordynannce; Afore made take their begynnyng to ſtand in their ſtrength at the feſt of the purificacon of our blyſed lady [2nd February] then next followyng And ſo from yere to yere for euer more to endure as it is above ſeide

ORDINACIO EFACIT TEMPE JOHIS HILTON MAIOR AN^o RR^o HENR^o
OCTAUI TERCIO PRO ARTE FFULLORU &c

[ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF JOHN HILTON MAYOR IN
THE THIRD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VIII
FOR THE FULLERS' CRAFT &c.]

[Folio 64b.]

[A]t A Comyn ſemble holden in the Guyhald of the town of Norhampton the fridaie [19th December, 1511] next before the feſt of ſeint Thomas the Appoſtell in the thyrde yere of the Reigne of oure ſoueyne lorde kyng Henr the viijth by the Aſſent of John Hilton than beyng meire of the ſame towne his xxiiijth Comburge; with all the Cominalte of the ſame town ther beyng pſent It is accorded condecendide & aggreed That no fuller deiyu nor cauſe to be delyuēd noo clothe ougt of his Gounaunce; to the mill vntyll the tyme that the ſerchers for the tyme haue vewed it & ſene it ou a perche that it be well truely & ſufficiently buried in the payne who dothe to the contrarie to paie xx^s. as often as any of them ſo dothe offend And that they ſett noo clothe vpon the teyntor or teyntoris after hit be thibbyd vntill the tyme that the Comyn Sealler haue ſtriken it & ſene that it be goode ſufficient & true drapeye made And that they drawe noo clothe opon the teyntor or teyntouris but to even it & to faſhon it not above ſi a yerd at the molte Apon lyke payne a fore reheried And if any of theym ſett ²⁷⁶

²⁷⁶ The ordinance ends abruptly at the bottom of the page.

INACIO P PISTOR TEMPE
RICI WHELAR MAIOR

Ad husteng tenē in Guy-
ville Norhampton die lune
et sūm sēi Dionisij Anno f f
octauū decimo p exemiam
tuoem Ricī Whelar tunc dē
maior Robti Long & Thome
Hilton iūm Bailioz & p Aui-
nē ac consiliū Johis Watte
Saxby Johis Pryn Johis
Hilton Penny Thome Chip-
sey Walker Wiff Bonde &
Dyxon nup maior dē vill
n pluribz de xxiiij^r Com-
munes ad tunc & iūm coūo-
i unanimi Assensu & concētu
Artificū arte pistoz ville pūce
ens Ordinatio et statutum
edit⁹ est & stabili⁹ tempo-
infuturū duratur put in lingua
na sequit^r in hec verba &c

ORDINANCE FOR BAKERS IN [Folio 85a.]
THE TIME OF RICHARD
WHELAR²⁷⁷ MAYOR

At a court of hustings held
in the Guildhall of the town of
Northampton on Monday [11th
October, 1518] next after the
feast of St Denys in the tenth
year of the reign of King Henry
the eighth by the excellent discre-
tion of Richard Whelar then mayor
of the said town Robert Long
and Thomas Pemberton bailiffs
there and by the advice and
counsel of John Wattes John Sax-
by John Parvyn John Hilton
Thomas Penny Thomas Chipsey
John Walker William Bonde and
Richard Dyxson lately mayors of
the said town and several of the
24 burgesses then and there
called together with the unani-
mous assent and consent of all
the workers of the craft of bakers
of the town aforesaid the fol-
lowing ordinance and statute is
now published and established
to last for future times as follows
in our mother tongue in these
words &c

That flor so moche that non Artificer of the same crafte nor non
eir wife childer nor l^ouante take opon them to Gyff or to sell in
an^o of place wⁱⁿ this town nor in the Contrey eny more bred
de for a deff^o but xiiij penyworthe at the moſte & if ther be
of the ſeid crafte or eny other for them wiche doth the con-
& due pve therof made he or thei that ſo offendith to leſe
eūy tyme as ofte as he is take w^l ſuche default the oon
therof to the maier for the tyme beyng & the other halffe to the

Bakers that
sell aboute
xiii to the
dofyn.

[Folio 85b.]

Richard Whelar, or Wheeler, was mayor of the town in 1519-20.

occupacon moreo^l it is ordeyned also that if eny of the seid Artificers & eny of their s^unte wiche laden his horse or horses at his house w^t bred to carie into the Countre by the wey as he goithe dothe sell off his seid horse in seynt James ende seint Edmund^e ende or in Coton²⁷⁸ eny man^o brede either more or lesse & who so e^u that so dothe offende to lese e^uy tyme vj^s viij^d the halfe therof to the maier for the tyme beyng & the other halfe to the Crafte And also if eny of the seid crafte do receyve eny man^o greene of corne upon the eny m^oket daie But iff it be bought in the m^oket the same daie that he or thei so receyve it to lese vj^s viij^d at e^uy tyme that he is take w^t default the oon halffe to the maier & the other halfe to the occupacon

m⁴ the last day off November Ao Dñi 1556 tempore Johe Balgey²⁷⁹ maiore Laurentio Manley Justiciarijs pacis this ordinaunce was Revyued for xiiij to y^e dosen vpon payne aboueseyd as well whit wheat and horsebred halff to y^e mayour halff to the chaumber &c²⁸⁰

ORDINACIO P^r ARTE CARNIFIC^r

[ORDINANCE FOR THE CRAFT OF BUTCHERS.]

[Folio 86a.]

[T]o all trust Cristen people to whom this p^rsent writyng ar to be holde redde herdde or see we John Saye²⁸¹ maire of the town of Norht Henr Humffrey Robard Shefford John Solle John Watis John Smyth Richard Crispe & Thom^s Parker late meires Thom^s Crown Thomas Crafeld ther beyng Bailliffz w^t xxiiij Comburges and the xlviiijth of the same town of Norht Ther at ther Comen assemble holden in the Guyhald the mondaie [24th March, 1505] next aft^r the fest of seint Edward the kyng The xxth yer of the reign of King Henr the vijth Thei haue graunted confermed & establiished this p^rsent ordinaunce w^t diu^rse articles conc^rnyng the vni^rsale wele to the hole crafte of bochers in the seid toun for the goode sadde Rewle & gou^rnaunce Emongis theym for e^u vnder writen dothe apper The firste poynte & article is that their shalbe chosen ij maisters by xij men of the same crafte wⁱⁿ the seid town to haue outlight of the seide crafte as for oon yere That is to sey

²⁷⁸ Three suburbs of Northampton.

²⁷⁹ John Balgey, or Balguye, was mayor of the town in 1557-8 and 1566-7

²⁸⁰ This paragraph is written in a later hand.

²⁸¹ John Saye, or Saks, was mayor of the town in 1505-6.

the vytell that thei kylle & flee be goode & able to mannys mete And if any man of the seide crafte doo the contrarie then hit shalbe lesfull to the maisters and wardens of the seide crafte to complayne to the maire of the town then beyng apon them And that none of the seid crafte rebuke ne repve none of the seide two maisters for the tyme beyng Apon the payne of iij^s iiij^d as ofte as thei doo soo offende to the seid maisters or to any of their succellours And the forseid forseite devyded equally the oon halfe to the maire then beyng And the other halfe to pffight of the seide occupation & light ²⁶⁹ (Item that noo man of the seide Crafte flee noo man⁹ of fleshe upon the sondaie till it be paste midnyght vpon the payne of eny defawte to paie to the light & to the maire then beyng xij^d) Item that eu^y man of the same crafte be redy to come to the maisters of the seide crafte by a resonable warnyng when soo eu^y the case shall requyre except that he haue a resonable excuse & cause that thei maie not attende appon the payne of eu^y defaute iij^s iiij^d the oon halfe to the maire & the other halfe to the occupacion moreo^u p^r noo man of the seide crafte sewe a nother man of the seid crafte for noo man⁹ of accon reall or psonall w^olte licence of the maisters of the seide crafte vpon the payne of eu^y defaute xxs the oon halfe to the maire & the other halfe to the p^rfyght of the seid occupacon Provided alwey that noo man of the seide crafte dight noone old shepe in stede of a lambe to the deceyte of the kynges people vpon the payne of eu^y defaute to the maire and to the light xij^d furthermore p^r noo man nor noo mannys l^ouaunt caste noo man⁹ of offale as lightis longis hornes & other anoyable thyngis be hynde the stallis nor oon the pawment vpon the payne of xij^d p^r oon halfe to the maire & the other halfe to the p^rfitte of the occupacon And that noo man wyllefully flee no man⁹ of swyne oon or other w^oin the bochery or stalles owpenle vpon the payne of xij^d ut sup²⁶⁹ (Also that thei flee noo fleshe oon the sondaie nor kutt noo hole quarter w^olte license of pe maisters or by the comaundement of the maire or that a lordis catour⁹ come to the toun vpon p^r payne of eu^y defaute of xij^d ut sup) And oue that that noo man lay forth none Inwardis of bestis on the stallis but p^r it be slayne the same daie vpon payne of eu^y defaute ²⁶⁹ (xij^d) vjd to the light of the seide crafte Jtm that thei kutt noo fleshe

[Folio 86b.]

²⁶⁹ These paragraphs have been ruled through in the *Liber*.

[Folio 87a]

oon p^r ffridaie but yf thei sell a quart^o or a fide or a hole best
 vppon the payne of eu^y defaute to the maire and to the plyte
 of the occupacon xijd ²⁸³(moreou that thei sell noo fusiny hogges
 but that thei send them home whereas thei bought vppon the
 payne of defaute to the maire & the occupacon xxs) Provided
 alwey p^r none of the seide ffealothip calle a nother of his fealo-
 ship knave in anger nor other vnkynde wordis ipeke amonge
 them false othir wyte then they ought to doo oone to a nother
 vppon the payne of eu^y defaute vjd the oon halfe to the maire
 & the other halfe to the plytte of the occupacon And yf he
 what soo eue he be soo offenyng will not hold his peas at the
 commaundement of the matters he to forfett at eu^y defaute to
 the maire & to the occupacon xijd fflurthermore that no man
 nor non of their f^rantis bye noo kalfe comyng towarde the
 market of Norh^mpton till it be in the m^rket place wher
 hit shall be Assigned vppon the payne of eu^y defaute vjd the
 oon halfe to the maire & the other halfe to the pfitt of the
 seid occupacon Item that no man cary noo fleshe in lomes
 oon the payne of vjs viijd the oon half to the maier & the
 other halfe to the seid occupacon ne Caste it in the Rever
 nor in non other place but there as hit shalbe Assigned vppon
 p^r payne of eu^y defaute xijd ut sup And that eu^y man ley owte
 their skynnes & hiddis in the m^rket place vppon the payne of
 eu^y defaute vjs viijd the oon halfe to the mayer & the other
 halfe to the occupacon Also that no man bie no man^o of morte
 bette vppon the peyne of eu^y defaute xxd ut sup And on that
 that noo kylle pockey shepe ne noo sowe bryme vppon the
 payn of eu^y defaute xxs the oon halfe therof to the maire
 the other half to the pfight of the seide occupacon moreou^r that
 noo man slei nor kille noman^o of borepigge nor ley it oon the
 stalles vppon the payne of eu^y defaute xijd vt sup And that noo man
 ley noo fleshe owte when the maistlers hathe leid it in vppon
 the payne of eu^y defaute vjd ut sup And also noo man kutte
 ne sell noo fleshe before iiij of the cloke in the mornyng vppon
 the peyne of eu^y defaute vjd ut sup Item that noo man holde
 owpen his shoppe noo lenger than ix of the cloke at night in
 fomer And till viij of the cloke in wynter vppon eu^y defaute
 vjd to the maire and to the occupacon And that man nor noo

²⁸³ This paragraph has been ruled through in the *Liber*.

mannys f²uaunt calle noo man woman nor childe pⁱ comys to the stalles to bie vitells from his neighbours borde to his borde vpon the payne of eu^y defawte vjd ut sup ²⁴⁴(And that thei kille no man^o of fleishe oon the saturdaye vpon the payne of eu^y default xijd ut sup) Also the xij men hath ordeyned that the olde maisters shall requyre the crafte to come togedur oon p^a tueidaie after martyllmas daie And thei there to make the xij men a trewe accompte for their tyme And there the xij men to choie ij other men maisters for that yere that is to come And if the olde maisters faile & come not to their assamble as vpon this forseid above lymytted Than the xij men that ordenyed that the seid olde maisters shall lese to the maier & to the occupaçon xxs Moreou^r that noo man nor non other of their f²uantis sell any man^o of vitell oon the sondaie vpon payne of eu^y defeaute iijs iiijd ut sup Provided also that noo man sett a nother mannys a wourke till he be clerely from his maister vpon the payne of eu^y defeaute vjs viijd ut sup ffurthermor that noo man haue noo comen gaderer of kalves but only their owen f²uantes vpon the payne of iijs iiijd ut sup ²⁴⁵(Also that noo man kepe noo fleishe in his howse nor in the stalles that wase slayne oon the thursdaie to be founde oon the saturdaye withowte hit be in salte on the peyn of eu^y defeaute xijd ut sup) And that noo man of the seide occupacion take noo man^o of howse ne pasture ou^r a nothe of his brethern heddis vpon the payne of eu^y defeaute therof made xxs ut sup Provided alwey that it is ordenyed that the maisters & wardens of the seid crafte of bochers to rere levy & to receyve all man^o of synes & trespassis as is above spetsyfied in the forseid ordinaunce And thei to be Accomptaunt for their seide yere that thei occupied vnto the maisters & wardens that shall succede theym the next yer aft^r that And to delyue there money & floke in to their handis by fore the seide xij men of the seide occupaçon Savyng oonly the oon halfe therof for to be res²ued & delyved to the maier for the tyme beyng vpon the payne to paie to the seid maire masters & wardens for the tyme beyng xxd Also the maisters for the tyme beyng doo not execute & correct truly eu^y defeaute accordyng to ther othe vpon of eu^y defeaute therof made to the maire & to the light of the seid occupaçon xxs &c This Acte & ordinaunce to be regefred and

[Folio 87b.]

[Folio 88a.]

²⁴⁴ These paragraphs are ruled through in the *Liber*.

writen in the regeſture in the town off Norhampton Amongis
other actis & ordenaunce there to remayne in ſtrenght and effect
for eũmor to Endure &c

ORDINACIO FACT TEMPE
JOHIS GOLDWYER MAIOR ANNO
RR HENR VIJ VNDECIMO

[S]ciatis nos conceſſiſſe &
hac carta nra confirmaffe maiori
balliuis & burgenſej eiũd viſſ
Norhampton omes libtat fñcher⁹
& coſuetud eiũd viſſ tangent
infra libtat pñct concñant ut
paty ibicript

ORDINANCE MADE IN THE
TIME OF JOHN GOLDWYER³²⁵
MAYOR IN THE ELEVENTH
YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
KING HENRY VII

You may know that we have
granted and by this our charter
have confirmed to the Mayor
Bailiffs and Burgesses of the
same town of Northampton all
the liberties franchises and cus-
toms to the same town apper-
taining within the liberty afore-
said concerning as is plainly
written below

Wher it is prouyded ordyned enacted & eſtabliſhed for euer to
endure by diũſe & many noble kyngs of Englonð in tymes
paſſed hathe graunted ratified & confermyd right honorable
chartoure & confirmacons off fñcheris libties frecutomes &
vſages to the town of Norht appteyng for the coñuacon of the
kyngs peace within the ſeid town & good and ſubſtanciall gy-
dyng good Rule therin to be mayntened obſeued & kept Accor-
dyng to the pñuacon of the boroughe & of all thenhabitanates
and dwellers therin And for the reſſfulnes & quietenes of the
ſame toun & borough The kyngs moſt noble grace of his gracious
memory & of his bountyvouſnes hath gñunted all the forſeid
pñmysed gñnted fñcheris libties coſtomes & vſages to the ſeid
toun of Norht belongyng in as Ample forme as any of his noble
pñgenitours kyngs of Englonð in tymes hath graunted herebefore
To the meire baſſis comburgeij & comynaltie of the forſeid toun
of Norht There to be oon maire hedde gouñnoure and ruler
there to be his Juſtice of his peace Clerke of his m'ket & the
kyngs Exchecour wñn the fñches & libties of the ſame toun &

[Folio 88b.]

³²⁵ John Goldwyer's name does not appear amongst those of the mayors of
the town; he probably took the place of Robert Butler, during part of 1495-6.

borough of Norht & the p̄cynctes of the same And there in the kyngs abience to rewle goȝen all the inhabitaunts & dwellers in the same according to the lawes & freccustomes of the seid town of Norht And moreoð euy man that is inhabitaunt & enfranchised ther is sworne vppon a boke before the maire for the tyme beyng that he shalbe fleithfull & lawfull to our souayne lord the kyng of Englonð & to his heires kyngs of englonð & Justifiable to the maire & baillis of the seid town of Norht that now be hath ben & shalben the freccustomes & viages of the same town shal maynteyn sustene to my power as more largely it Apperith at the takyng of his othe &c And there what p̄son or p̄sones that is p̄franchised & wyll not be obedyent to the maire baillies & meir brethern as is affore expresseð declared by his othe made he rennythe in piure & is wyllfully for sworne vppon a boke and for his piure it is punysshable & fynable by the discrecion of the seid maire & of the advice of counsell to hym sworne to accesse levy here suche punysshment & fyne as he shaldo therin by the advice of his counsell expedyent for the same flor where the maier for the tyme beyng of his yere is the kyngs Chauncheler ther to determyn all such piurie Iniury & wrong affore hym don or vied And if any p̄son or p̄sones malyciously of rancor malys or evyll wyll do make Any confederacy & conuenticles breche or impedymēt of Justice agens the maire baillyffes & the countell of the seid town of Norht by worde dede or wrytyng Rennythe in dempuyte & damage to Agrevous Ameyment as shalbe adiuged by the advice of the maire the King's Justices of his peace & the Kings crowners w̄in the seid [town] of Norht for his Imagynacon & symple demeanour as shal accorde with Justice in this behallse in testifyeng of the p̄mysses²⁸⁶

for perjury
& disobedience
to the mayor.

IN DEI NOME AMEN. Tenore
presencā pateat vniūsis qd cum
in maḡm Roḡm de Bowdone
ppetū vicar̄

In the name of God Amen
By the tenor of these presents
let it be clear to all that whereas
between Master Roger de Bow-
done²⁸⁷ perpetual Vicar of the

[Folio 39a.]

²⁸⁶ Breaks off in the middle of a page, space being left on two leaves which has been partially filled up in a later hand with the three next entries.

²⁸⁷ Master Roger de Bowdon became incumbent of Hardingstone in April, 1281, and immediately took proceedings against the inhabitants residing in the Liberty of Saint Leonard's, to recover his tithes.—*Bridges' Northamptonshire*, vol. i., p. 303.

pochialis ecclie de Hardyngsthor
Actorem ex pte vna Ac Magr̃m &
ffres leproꝝ Sci Leonardi ext^a
Norhampton reos ex Alia sup
oblationibꝫ manualibꝫ et minutis
decimis defh]ortis habitantm̃ in-
fra tminatm̃ eiuldem domus Sci
leonardi in dca pochia de har-
dyngsthor Site. quas idem vi-
carius ad se de iure coi asseruit
ptio^e pte alia illas ad Capellam
Sci leonardi ex longissima con-
suetudine spectare debere in
contrarium asserente. coram nob
Olyuero pmissione diuina Lincotij
Epo auc^{te} ordinaria cognoscenti-
bꝫ questio uteret^r. tandem post
Aliqua litis cōtamina

parish church of Hardingstone
plaintiff of the one part and the
master and brothers of the lepers
of Saint Leonard without North-
ampton defendants of the other
part concerning the manual ob-
lations and the small tithes of gar-
dens of the inhabitants within the
boundary of the same house of
Saint Leonard in the said parish
of Hardingstone situated which
the same Vicar has claimed to
belong to him by common law
while the other party claims to
the contrary that they ought to
pertain to the chapel of Saint
Leonard from very long custom
before us Oliver²⁸⁸ by Divine
permission Bishop of Lincoln en-
quiring by our authority ordinary
the question was discussed At
length after sundry legal con-
tentions

[Folio Rgb.] ORDINACIO FACT̃ TEMPE JOHIS BROWNE MAIOR ANNO TERCIO RR
EDWARDI SEXTI

[ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF JOHN BROWNE MAYOR²⁸⁹
IN THE THIRD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING EDWARD VI]

At assemble holden in the Guyhalde the xith daye of October
[1549] in the yer of o' sou^aayn lorde abouetaide by the saide John
Broune maior Laurens Manley John Motte Richard Wilkynson
Nycholas Ramb Henri M^all Richard Lowres John Deightren
Anthonye Dryand Christofoꝝ Darnes & Henri Clarke the said
maiores brotherne the xxiiij Coburget^r & all the hole comynalte

²⁸⁸ Dean Oliver Sutton became Bishop of Lincoln in 1280. He completed the
"Angel Choir" in 1280. He died in 1300, and was buried in Lincoln Cathedral.
This record ends abruptly in the middle of a page.

²⁸⁹ John Browne was mayor of the town in 1550-1.

of this same towne at whiche assēble holden this act & ordinaunce to stond to thend of the worlde in full strength vertu and effect as folowith

That no fraunchised pson that dothe Jnioye the libtes of this towne or her cūts shall frome hēnfourth wthout lycens of the mayor for the tyme beyng Jmplede another being lykewitē fraunchised in anye of the kyngē maiēties courts out of this towne vpon the payne for eu^y tyme so offendyng cont^rrye to this act to forfett hees & paye to the p^rett of the chamber of the toun xls of lafull monye of englande wthout anye favour

ORDINACIO P^r PORCIBZ TEM^pē DICT JOHIS BROUNE MAIOR

[Folio 90a.]

[ORDINANCE MADE FOR PIGS IN THE TIME OF THE
SAID JOHN BROWN MAYOR]

At assēble holden the xjth daye of October [Friday, 11th October, 1549] in the said iij^{de} yer of o^r saide sou^rayne lorde kyngē Edwarde the Sixte &c by the saide John Broune maier & his brethrin the xxiiijth & comburgeis & the body of the same towne at which assēble this acte folowyng was ordeyned & stablishide to raymayne in Recorde amongest other

That frome and after the feast of Saynt Thomas thappostell next comyng no fraunchysed pson of this towne brewers & bakers except shall kepe vpon the comynes of this towne or put befor the commū herde called the hogheard but iiij hogge & the brewers & bakers vj vpon payne for eu^y hogge so taken ether before the heard or vpon the commus the owner therof to paye vnto the chamber of this sayd towne as comine treasu to the same ij^s as often as the be taken with suche default ether by informacon or otherwysē with oute redemcon

lying lanoy
of hogges upon
the comon.

This ordiūnce is made as well for hoges sowes and wep-
ninge pige

[A RELEASE TO EDMUND FREARS FROM ALL MUNICIPAL OFFICES]

Uniu^sis Xpi fidelibus ad quos To all the faithful servants
p^resentes tre puen^tint Henricus of Christ to whom these present
Neale letters shall come Henry Neale²⁹⁰

[Folio 90b.]

²⁹⁰ Henry Neale was mayor of the town in 1540-1, and 1553-4.

maior ville Northon & tota cōitas
eiūdem ville Saltm in dñō Sem-
piternam Cū Edmunds Frears
pewterar Comburgens; noster
p̄ditus in Subsidu et Releua-
men diu⁹forū custagioꝝ ac p̄ Suf-
tentatione & factura pauimento
in villa p̄dicta iam p̄ nos tande
facto decem libras bone et le-
galis monete Anglie nobis dedit
& contulit in effectū Nou⁹itis
nos p̄fatos maiorem et cōitatem
debitam recompensatoem dicto
Edmundo Frearspewterer quantū
in nobis est fieri volentes cōces-
sisse eidem Edmundo p̄ pntes qd
ipse ad officiū maioratus baliui
contabulari camlarij ville p̄dcte
p̄ eadem villa p̄ nos & Succes-
sores n̄ros burgenſes dice ville
nullo modo imposterū Sit electus
Sed quod idem Edmūdus de eiū-
dem ac de oībus alijs officijs
dicte ville ptinens imppetuū Sit
quietus & omnino exoneratus per
p̄ntes In cuius rei testimoniū Si-
gillū officiij maioratus et Sigillū
nūm cōmune p̄ntibus fecimus ap-
poni Datū apud Northon vice-
simo die Junij anno regni Ed-
wardi Sexti Dei gr̄a

mayor of the town of Northamp-
ton and the whole commonalty of
the same town sends greeting
in the Lord for ever Whereas
Edmund Frears pewterer our
fellow-burgess disposed towards
the help and relief of divers
costs and for the sustaining and
making the pavement in the town
aforesaid now at last made by us
has given to us ten pounds of
good and lawful money of Eng-
land and has bestowed it for the
purpose You must know that
we the aforesaid mayor and com-
monalty wishing that due recom-
pense should be made to the said
Edmund Frears pewterer as far
as we can have granted to the
same Edmund by these presents
that he shall under no circum-
stances hereafter be elected to
the office of mayor bailiff con-
stable or chamberlain of the
town aforesaid for the same town
by us and our successors bur-
gesses of the said town But that
the same Edmund shall be for
ever quit and altogether exoner-
ated by these presents from the
same and all other offices belong-
ing to the said town In witness
whereof we have caused to be
placed on these presents the
seal of the office of mayor and
our common seal Dated at
Northampton the 20th day of
June [1553] in the seventh year
of the reign of King Edward
the Sixth by the grace of God

Anglie & frauncie Rege fidei	of England and France King
deffensor et in terra Ecclie Anglj	Defender of the Faith and upon
et Hibnie Supmi capits Septimo	earth Supreme Head of the
	Church of England and Ireland

²⁹¹ Hit is to be conceyvyd and remembrid that of olde tyme dewe and Accustomyd eu^y toune tyzte owte to be A Cartefull and A Carte lode. And so eu^y carte so to be charged owith to be a tonne tyzte that is x^cx^o. After v^{xx} and xij for the hundre &c [Folio 91a.]

And so firste to begynne that where A botell of haye weye but .ij. li. after that rate. The ostiller shall wyne in the hundrid of the cartefull. howesoo evir he bye hit. And so of eu^y hundred he shall make .ijs. iiijd. And so that lode and Cartefull be this weight so weyn owte and made shalbe of the Cartefull. Astur the rate beforeseide xlvis viijd.

Allso Astir the Rate of .ij. li. and A halfe the botell of haye so made The hundrid xxij. And yete in eu^y hundrid .ij. li. weight in supplufage that is xl li in the lode. And that is in money viijd. And so Astir that Rate he shall make of the Cartefull xxxvijs iiijd.

Moreouⁿ astir the Rate of .ij. li. the botell of haye so made the hundrid is xvij. And so yete in eu^y hundrid in supplufage of weyght in the hole lode xlii weight that is vjd. And so the botell o haye of .ij. li. Astir that rate shall make xxxs. vjd. And yete ovir that in the hole lode in supplufage .iiij. li. of weight [Folio 91b.]

Moreouⁿ the Botell haye of .ij. li. and Ahalfe the hundrith conteynith xvj And in eu^y hundrid so meche. And so the botell of haye be the Osteler made the lode is xxvjs viijd

Moreouⁿ the Botell haye of .iiij. li. the hundrid therinne conteynith xiiij And so the botell of haye of .iiij. li. conteynith in the cartefull xxiijs iiijd.

²⁹¹ A folio has been cut out before this page and the handwriting of the first part of the book recommences here.

Allso the Botell of haye of iij^{ti} & Ahalfe the hundryd conteynyth xij^d And so in eu^y hundrid so meche. And yete is in eu^y hundred insupplufage iij^{ti} of haye The whiche drawith to iij^{ti} of haye And that is ix^d. And so the botell of iij^{ti} & halfe Aftir the rate makyth xxs ix^d o^b

Moreouⁿ the botell of haye of vi^{ti} the hundrid drawith to xj^d And yete insupplufage in eu^y hundred ij^{ti} And that extendith to xli^{ti} of haye. That is aftir the Rate in the hole lode iij^d And so the botell of vi^{ti} of haye drawith in the lode xviijs viij^d.

[Folio 92a.] Allso the botell of haye of vi^{ti} and Ahalfe the hundrd drawith to xd. And so yete in supplufage ij^{ti} of haye the which extendith to xli^{ti} in the hole aftir the rate before reherfid to iij^d o^b And yete more ovir j^{ti} And Ahalfe of haye insupplufage. And aftir the rate the Cartfull xvjs xj^d o^b

Moreovir the botell of haye of vj^{ti} contenyth in the hundrid ix^d And yete in the supplufage in the hundrid iij^{ti} so that extendith iij^{ti} of haye in the hole that is vj^d. o^b. And yete insupplufage Abofe that in haye ij^{ti} not recouyd. And so the cartull Aftir that rate the hole lode xvs vj^d o^b

Moreovir the botell hay of vj^{ti} and Ahalfe is viij^d o^b and yete insupplufage in eu^y hundrid. j^{ti} and Ahalfe And so that extendith in the hole to xxx^{ti} of haye and that aftir the rate is iij^d. And yete insupplufage iij^{ti} of haye And so aftir the rate A cartfull xiijs iij^d

Moreouⁿ the bottell hay of vij^{ti} the hundrid conteynyth viij^d the whiche extendeth vnto Aftir the Rate before Reherfid the Cartfull of hay to xiijs iij^d ^{92b}

[Folio 92a.]

INQUISICI^o SCDM STATUTU WINTON

[INQUISITION ACCORDING TO THE STATUTE OF WINCHESTER ^{92b}]

MILLNERS

ffyrste the Assis of the Miller is that he shall haue noo man^o

^{92b} A few scribbled words in a later hand follow here on folio 92b.

^{92b} This inquisition is not according to the statute of Winchester, 13th Edward I., but it appears to be an extended version of the later Ordinance for Bakers and others, of later date.

Mesurys at his mylle but yf they be syfied and sealed Accordyng w^t the kynge standarde. And he to haue of eu^y Buſhell of Whete. A. quarte for the gryndyng. And yf he sette hit Another for the ſettyng. And he ſhall haue of A buſhell of malte A pynte for the gryndyng. And yf he ſette hit Another for the ſettyng. And that he water noo mannys Corne to yeſſe the worſe for the better. Nor he ſhall haue noo hoggys geſe ne dukkeys at his mylle. Nor man^y of pultre but. iij. hennys & A cokke. And yf he doo the cont^rie of any of theſ. his fyne is at eu^y tyme xld. And yf he wylnot be ware by. ij. warnyng the. iij. tyme he to be Jugged to the pylorye &c

BAKERS

The Aſſis of a baker is. vjd. hying and vjd. lowyng in the price of A quarter Whete. ffor and he lakke an ownc in weight of an oß or jd loſe he to be am^oced at xxd And yf he lakke an ownc & ði he to be amerced at ijs vjd. Jn all man^{er}e brede ſo lakkyng. And yf he doo bake ou^{er}e that Aſſis he to be Jugged to the pylorye

BREWERS

The Aſſis of a brewer is xijd. hying. And xijd. lowyng in the price of a quarter malte. And eūmore thyllyng to ſterthyng. ffor when he byeth a quarter malte for ijs then he ſhall ſell agalon ale of the beſte for an halpeny And to make xlvij galons of a quarter of malte. And when he byeth A quarter malte for iijs. iij q^a. A galon iijjs iij q^a vs. v. q^a vjs vj. q^a vjs vij q^a viijs viij q^a A galon ale and no ſreether. And that he ſett non Ale Aſale tyll he haue ſent aſtyr the Ale Taſters to ſee that yt be good and Abull. And as ofte as he doyth the contrye he is to be Am^oced at vjd. And that he ſell non but bye meſure ſyſed and ſealed. And that he ſelle a quarte of the beſte ale withyn hym for oß. And yf he doo the contrarye to eny of theiſe. Or and he ſell not aſtyr the price of malte he is to be Am^oced the ſyſt^e tyme xijd the ſecounde tyme xxd. And yf he wylnot beware by ij warnyng the iijth tyme he to be Jugged to the Cukkyng ſtole And aſtyr to the Pelorye &c

[Folio 93b.]

BOCHERS

The Aſſis of A Bocher is that he ſhall noon exciſe taker more then of the ſhylllyng. jd. but the hedde the gadder the inwarde and the ſete. ffor the ſkynne and the talowe ſhall goo

[Folio 94a.]

with the carcas of all suche catell that fedyth. And of suche catell that fedyth not. he shall haue but the hedde and the skynne. Allso he shall sloe no Bulles fleshe but yf he be bayted nor noo Cowe that is Abullyng ne of great calfe nor noo ewe that is Arammyng ne great with lambe nor noo sowe that is Abrymyng nor grete w^t pygges nor noo maner corrupte fleshe. And yf he do the cont^rye he to be Amerced the fyrte tyme The seconde tyme xxd The iij^{de} tyme xld And yf he sell any [de]fectiffe fleshe he to be Jugged vnto the pelorie &c

FFISSHERS

The Assise of A ffysher is that he shall be noon excelle taker more than in xijd. jd. nor that he forsaill ne regrate no market nor noo hows noo man⁹ ffysher but that he sette yt evyn in the playne m⁹ket place nor that he water noo man⁹ ffysher twye; nor that he sell noo [de]fectiffe ffisher And yf he do the cont^rie to eny of theise he to be Amerced the fyrte tyme xijd The ij^{de} tyme xxd The iij^{de} tyme he to be iugged vnto the Stokkes openly in the m⁹ket place &c

COKES

The Assise of A coke is that he sell noo man⁹ fleshe ne ffysher but yf yt be good and selsonable for man both in sethyng & Rostryng and bakyng nor that he sethe roste ne bake noo man⁹ mete twye; ffor and hit be proved his syne ys at eu^y tyme xld. And yf he wynnot beware the iij^{de} tyme to be iugged vnto the pylorie &c

INHOLDERS

[Folio 94b.]

The Assise of an Inholder is that his mesures be tryed and ieled that he sellith his prouander bye. And to haue of eu^y buthell puandyr jd wyunnyng ou^re the m⁹ket goyth And his botell hey of A halpeny shall wey vijii And his litter ffree or ellis to wey A penyworth of horse brede kepyng the A^{ss} though he bye alode of hey for xiijs iiijd And A fflagot of wode for an halpeny thalle A yerde of length and iij handfull and an halfe Abought And a fflagot of A penye by handfull Abought kepyng the lenght of a yerde. And he shall selle A potte of iij pyntes of the beste Ale for jd. And yf he be A brewer to sell as [a]nother brewer dothe And that he bake noo maner brede wⁱⁿ hym to selle And

yf he do the contrarye to eny of theise fyrste he to be Am^oced xijd. the secounde tyme xxd. The iij^o tyme xld. And so forth And yf he kepe any bawdrye his fyne is vjs viijd. And yf he wylnot beware by theise worynge he tobe Jugged to the pelorye And to for swere the Town

TAUERNERS

The Assise of a Taüner is that he be no excessie taker more then of A galon of White wyne or Redde wyne ijd wynnyng in eu^y galon. And of all other swete wyne. iijjd. in A galon. And that he sette no man^o wyne Asale tyll he haue sente aftyr the Officers of the Town to taste hit And to see that hit be good & Abull wyne and that his vesell be gawged and soo merked on the hede. And ther he to be sworne Affore the Officers of the Town what it coste hym. And aftyr that to selle. And that he sell not but by mesure syfied and sealed. And that he make nor medyll noo maner of wyne within his Tauern And yf he do cont^{re} of theise he to be Amerced the fyrst tyme. xijd. the ij^o tyme xxd The iij^o tyme xld And soo forth. And yf he selle eny defectyfe wyne his Tauern dore to be sealed yn And to make Asyne to the lorde of the ffraunches And he to be Jugged vnto the forme of the statute

[Folio 95a.]

BERE BREWER

The Assise of A bere Brewer is that he make no maner of Bere but of good stufte And that yt be holioom for mannys body. And that his vessellis byn of An syse. And that his barellis holde xxxvj^o gallons his kylderbyn xvij galons And his vyrbyn be ix galons. And he to selle aglon of the beste bere for A peny And A galon Sengylbere for ob. And that yt stand and spurge iij dayes at the leste And that he sette no man^o bere Asale tyll he haue sente aftyr An Officer of the town to taste hit. And see that yt be good and Able And that he selle noo maner bere but by mesure syfied and sealed And yf he do contrary in Any of theise. fyrste to be Amerced xijd the ij tyme the iij^o tyme xld And yf he selle any [de]fectyfe bere he to be Jugged to the Pelorye iij merket dayes &c

TALOW CHAUNDELER

The Assise of A Talowgh chaundeler is that sell salte Otemele . rope and other diuise chafer that his weightis & mesures be syfied

[Folio 95b.]

and sealed and a trewe beame for when he byeth jli Talough for a ob then shall he sell jli of candyll for jd And that is A stertyng for the weke & for the waste Another for the warke-manhip. And right soo as talough bieth and loweth soo to sell his Candyll. And he do the contrarie. he to be [a]m^oced the firste tyme xijd the ij^{de} tyme xxd the iij^{de} tyme xld And yf his stuffe be nought and lake of his weight And selle not Aftir the price of Talough he to forfeyte that is [de]fectable and to be Jugged to the forme of the statute aboveseide

SPICEZ

The Assise of A spycer is that he haue no man^o weightys but that they be syled and sealed and trewe beame And that he sell by noo hornes nor by no Ayme of honde nor by noo man^o subtelte to disceyve the people And that his spicez be good and clene garbeled And that he that doth contrarye in any of theij his fyne is at eu^y tyme xld And yf he wolnot beware by ij warnynge the iij^{de} tyme he tobe Jugged Accordyng to the forme of the statute &c

WEUEZ

The Assize of A weil is that he wey by no stones nor by no man^o weightes but yf they byn syled and sealed and trewe beame nor that he sell no mannys thrunmys lynyn ne wollen. And yf he do contrarie he to be Am^oced and Jugged vnto the forme of statute

TANNER

The Assise of a tanner is that he tanne no Shepis ledder getys ledder deris ledder horse ledder ne houndes ledder nor that he tanne no ledder to selle but that yt be thorough tanned. And he do contrarie to eny of theij his fyne is at eu^y tyme vjs viiij. And to forfette that is forfeitable And yf he wylnot beware be ij warnynge the iij^{de} tyme he to be Am^oced and Jugged vt supra &c

CORDEWENEZ

[Folio 96a.]

The Assise of A Cordewener is that he make no man^o of Shoes nor botes but of good netez ledder and that yt be thorough tanned and thorough coryed And that he corye no man^o ledder

wⁱⁿ hym. And yf he do contr^{ie} to eny of thei^z his fyne at euy tyme vjs viijd. And to forfette that is forfetable And yf he wylnot beware by ij warnynge he to be Jugged Accordyng to the forme of statute &c

CORIOUR

The Assise of A Coriour is that he corye no man^o ledder but that hit be thorough tanned. And that it be coryed w^t sufficient stufte. And hit to be serched and seyn by an Officer of the Town to se that yt be good and Able. And that his leddyr be goode and able well and trewly coryed. And yf he do contr^{ie} to any of thei^z to be Amerced and Jugged to p^r forme of statute &c

WHITTAWER

The Assise of A whittawer is that he make nor Tawe noo maner ledder but shepis ledder getis ledder derys ledder horse ledder and hounde^z ledder. And that yt be made of sufficient stufte. And yf he doo contr^{ie} he to be Am^oced and Jugged Accordyng to the forme of the statute

MERC^o DRAP^r GROCER SMYTH

The Assise is that no mercee drap grocer smyth nor no maner Crafty man by nor selle no man^o thyng that pteynyth eyther vnto weight and mesure but if ther weighte and mesures be fyed and sealed Accordyng to the kyngys standarde And he that doth contrare to eny of thei^z to be Am^oced and Jugged Accordyng to the forme of statute

REGRATER

Also the Assise is that no man^o of man nor woman shalnot forfall ne regrate noo man^o of merket of eny maner thyng that shulde come therto neyther within the town Nor with owte where thorough the merket shulde be the werse And the pore comens hurt. To by at the seconde hande. And he that do contrary to eny of thei^z to be iugged vt supra &c

[Folio 90b.]

Sacm scrutato^r correi a^o octauo regine Elizabeth^e ²⁹⁴

[The oath of the Searchers of Leather the 8th year of the reign of Elizabeth]

You shall sweare that you shall well and faithefully assit the

²⁹⁴ This oath is written in a later hand.

i^ochere apointed for the tierche of leyther and wares made of lether acording ly to the acte of parliam^t made in y^e fyveth yere of the Quenes ma^{ty} reigne towching tannars curriors thomakers and other artificers occupienge the cuttinge of leyther to youre best knoledge and cuninge so helpe you god and by the holly content^e of this booke &c

Johe Balgey²⁰⁵ tunc
maiore et Johe
Saxby Cōi Clico
a^o Dñi 1.5.6.5.

[Folio 97a.]

ORDINACIO FACT TEMPE LAURENCIJ WASHINGTON MAIOR
ANNO REGNI REGIS HENRICI OCTAVI XXXVI^o

[ORDINANCE MADE IN THE TIME OF
LAURENCE WASHINGTON²⁰⁶ MAYOR IN THE 37TH YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF KING HENRY VIII.]

At the comōon assemble holden at the Guyhalde in the towne of Norh^mpton the xxvjth daie of Nouēber [1545] in the xxxvijth yere of the raigne of our souaine lord henri the eight bi the grace of god of england fraunc yrelande kynge defender of the faith and off the church off England and alsō of yreland the sup^me hedde by the examinaion and the discrīte distreion of Laurens WASHINGTON Maire of the saide towne of Norh^mpton with the hole condicent and agrement of his cobretherne the xxiiijth coburgesses and the hole bodi of the saide towne That wher the bakers of this borow hathe and dothe send fourth bred in to the country to a great nūber on horibak eu^y daye that which is thought to be a great dearthing of the come that comyth to this m^okett hit is therfore fully cōdytendyd and agreyd by the meyre his brethern the xxiiij coburgeniys and the hole bodye off this saide towne that from the vijth daye of december next folowyng that no baker of this saide towne shall sende fourth of this towne in to the countrey but one horse lodyd w^t brede eu^y daye vppone the payne of eu^y default so taken to forlett lees and pay vjs viijd the one half therof to the meyre forthe tyme beyng and the other half to the vfe and pfett of the chamber of the said towne

²⁰⁵ John Balgey, or Balguye, was mayor of the town in 1557-8 and 1566-7.

²⁰⁶ Lawrence Washington was Mayor of the town in 1546-7.

And farther that no myln⁹ nor loder to the myll beyng [Folio 97b.] frenchised or othirwyse from this daye fourth to Resort into the m⁹kett place vppone the markett daye wher anye man⁹ of grayne is to be solde wⁱⁿ this borow vppone the payne aforesaid that is to saye vjs viijd the one half therof to the mayre for the tyme beyng and the other half to the vse and profett of the chamber of this towne

ñ

And farther that no howsholder wⁱⁿ this borow beyng franchysed or otherwyse frome hensforth do suffer anye man⁹ of grayne to be sett vp in his howse of anye foryner or other from m⁹rkett daye to m⁹kett daye wherby it is thought that come dothe kepe the heir p^{ise} vppone the payne to forfett leys and paye vjs viijd the one halfe therof to the meyre for the tyme beyng and the other halfe to the vse and pfett of the chamber afore saide

ñ

And farthermore that no baker chaundler nor anye other p^{ione} of this towne carry fourth anye tallow candelle of this towne in to the contrith to be solde vppone the payne of eu⁹y default so taken that he or they forfett leys and paye xxs the one halfe to the mayer for the tyme beyng and the other halfe to the vse and pfett of the chamber of the forsayd towne

ñ

And that no chaundler nor any other of this towne or of the countryth do sell anye candelle within this towne by the penyworthe but that that the sayde jd worth shall agree aste^r the pounce vppone the payne for eu⁹y defaulte so taken to forfett leys & paye vjs viijd the one halfe thereof to the mayr for the tyme beyng and the other halfe to the vse and profett of the chamber aforesayd

[Folio 98a.]

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Provydid alwayes that no baker aforesayd shall carry forth of this towne but one horse lodyd w^t bred eu⁹y daye and the saide horse to travele but once a daye vppone the payne aforesayd for eu⁹y horse so taken

ORDINAUNCE MADE THE TYME OF RICHARD WILKYNSON²⁹⁷

[Folio 98b.]

MAYOR IN THE XXXVIIth YERE OF THE RAIGNE OF

O^r SOU⁹AYNE HENRY THE VIIth

At the assemble holden at the Guyhalde in the towne of

²⁹⁷ Richard Wilkinson was mayor of the town in 1547-8.

North^mton the xvth daye of October [1546] in the xxxviiijth yere of o^r sou^{er}ayn lorde afforesaide by the dyscrete examynacon of Richard Wilkyson mayre of the towne afforesayd with the cōdyfend & agrement of his qui brethern the xxiiijth Coburgettes & the hole body of the sayde towne

the typler

That eu^{er}y brewar withe in this towne ffrome hensforthe shall sell xiiijth galons of ale at the fatte tyde for the dosen so that hit may be xij gallons of oldre ale when it is sethed & thane for the same xviiijth & nott aboue vpon the payne for eu^{er}y such faute so taken to fforefett lese & paye iijth & iiijth the one half to the mayor for the tyme beyng & the other di to the vse & profytt of the chamber of the saide towne

And if the saide brewars do sell lese than before mencioned ye to forfett lese & paye for eu^{er}y gallon so lakkyng iijth the one halfe to the mayer & the typler to be allowed notwithstanding & this penaltye to be levyed once in the weke

And further that all bere brewers tha brew to sell shall sell a kynderkyn contaynyng xviiij galons of the best beare for xxiijth & a kynderkyn of the second beare for & that the sel not aboue this p^{re} vpon the payne for eu^{er}y tyme so offending to forefett lese & paye iijth & iiijth thone halfe to the maire for the tyme beyng & the other halfe to thuse and pfett of the chamber aforaide

And if the said beare brewer do not sell so manye galons for the kynderkyn that then for eu^{er}y galon soled out to forfett lese & paye iiijth thone halfe to the mayer & the typler to be allowed notwithstanding

[Folio 99a.]

JURAMENTA HŌIS ADMISS IN LIBTATEM

[THE OATHS OF A MAN ADMITTED INTO THE LIBERTY.]

Ye shall swere that ye shall be good true and laussull vnto owre sou^{er}ayne lord kinge henrye of englond and to his heires kynges obesauns and obediens vnto the mayre and bailieffe that now be and shall be off this boroughe in all thinge lawfull off nor thoon The franchises customes and viages theroff ye shall mayntein And the borugh kepe harmeleise in that you is Also

ye ihall be contrybutarye in all mañer off charge w'yn this burgh As fumons watches contrybutions taskes tellagies lott and skot bere you pte as a other ffreman ihall ye shall colour no foreyn goodes wherby the kyng myght leete his custom or his avauntage ²⁹⁸ (Ye shall kepe the kinge peace in your own pñone) ye shall knowe no gaderyng conventicles nor conspyrocies made ageynit the peace But you shall warne the mayour theroff or his mynysters and set yt to youre power All theise poyntes and articles well & trewlye ye shall hold and kepe acordinge to the lawes vsages and customes off this borough to ye vtermoſt off yō powre So helpe you god and holy dome and the contents off that book

MEMORANDUM at a Counsell holden at the Guyhalde of the town of Norhampton the xxth day of Aprill [1510] the Reyng of kyng Henr the viijth after the Conquest the fyrst by the discreſion and Counsell of John Parvyn ²⁹⁹ then & their beyng mayer of the same town Henr Humffrey Robard Shefford John Wattis John Smyth Richarde Crype John Saye & John Saxbye late mayours of the same town for many and diuerſe vnſittyng langage & ſedicious wordis wiche Wiſſm Whitfelde flecher of the same town hath hade and hath spokyn to the xlvij pñones of the same town beyng at a Comon ſemble holden at the Guyhald of the same town the wich wordis heraft more playnly doth aper & be recordyd in the Regeſter of the same town for to be knownen that whatſoev⁹ the forſeide Wiſſm Whitfeld seyth by dyſperyng of any man⁹ man that it shulde be takyn for no trowth nor for non effect

[Foliot 99b.]

IN PRIMIS he ſeid that their waſe a writ wich he callyd a writ dormond and it waſe made by the advyſe & aſſent of maſter Richard Empſon & no other of kyngis counſell knowyng therof & he ſaith that it is of no effecte but as a forgyd thyng and of no Auctorite wich wordis wer as miche as in hym is to haue sett all this Boroghe at a great Inconuenyence and trobull & yet is except good Reformation be had therfor

²⁹⁸ The line "Ye shall kepe the kinges peace in your own persone" has been struck through in the *Liber*.

²⁹⁹ John Parvin was mayor of the town in 1510-1 and 1525-6.

J^m he sayth that their is nother the maier nor noon of his brethern shall haue of hym nother sewt nor f^uice and as for metyng with the maier he woll not do his dewtey nother to hym nor yet to the kyngis Armys but thus he misbehauyth hym selfe lyke no trew townys man

[Folio 100a.] J^m he thretyth and malisfyth master John Saxby beyng the maier of the same town in xxiiij yer of kyng henr vijth and he seith that he woll ley to his Charge for suche causis wich he sholde doo in the same yer that he wase maier and he wolde cause hym to spend xx^s powns therfor moro^u the seid W^m hath compleyned to my lordie Dakers of the same M John Saxby & informyd hym that he wolde not alowe such certificatt nor writyng as cam owyt of p^e North for record of suche p^onis as wer presentis at the kyngis lettis for scottis moreo^u he seith the same seasoⁿ M John Saxby beyng maier & kepyng the kyngis court within the same borowgh shulde kepe Robyn Whoode court

J^m now of late he hath had sedicious langage a yens^t m^{an} W^m Cutler f^ogant woofe solle god p^odon which wordis wer thus he seid that if the forseid M W^m Cutler had lyved he wolde haue handild hym so that he shuld haue had the wor^{se} ende of p^e staffe he saith he wolde haue fond a meayn to haue gotten a lett^r of the forseid W^m Cutlers owen hond writyng & when he had gotten it he wolde haue sowgt ynglond but he wold a fond a nother man that sholde haue writyn like p^e same hond & then he wold haue forgid a lett^r in p^e wiche lett^r he wold haue put in treason ayens^t p^e kyng and this same lett^r shold haue byn caste in to the kyngis chamber and then matter W^m cutler to haue stonde at his own Joberdey &c

[Folio 100b.]

SACR^m MA^gRI ARTIS TELLAT^r

[OATH FOR THE MASTER OF THE TILERS' CRAFT]

Ye shall in your Crafte called Hylliyars and sklaters Crafte wⁱn the Toun of Norhampton dewly and trewly serche and o^u see All those p^ones that occupyen hylliyars Crafte that they shall doo trewly in there occupacon their warke & trewe stufte sufficiantly w^olte defawte defravde or gyle by the ou^oyght of the mait^rs for the tyme. And that the seide maitirs soo choien &

electe And to make ther othe before the meire in the Guyhalde
And Also that ther shall noo man of that occupacon occupy the
seide Crafte in the seide Toun Butte the maisters of the seide
crafte do certyfie & make Relacon to the meire forth with
whethir the partye or parties be sufficient & Able psones to doo
mennys werke trewly And furthermore that pson or psones of
that occupacon to take noo man⁹ of warke in greate vnto the
tyme he be A ffraunchised & sworn That then ye shall presente
hym or theym that dothe the contrary to the meyre As often
as they soo be founde offending what he trespassith w'oute Any
concelment in any parte therof. So god me helpe & All Seyntes
& be this boke

³⁰⁰ sic ex consensu totius Artis elec-
tos & pfecti itm pntat sub pe^a
xxⁱⁱ denⁱⁱ &c

Hec statuta p Gar-
dianos in⁹ius nō-
atos A maiore & eius
consilio fuerunt petita
die lune px post fm
Conē virgis Gloriose &
concessa &c Gardiani
pdica petent⁹

Et die Jouis px post fm conu⁹
Scti Pauli fuit Robtus Rovy an-
dict⁹ exon⁹atus A supus pdict⁹ &
loco ipius Roberti fuit Thom⁹
Bury Sherman ad itm onus

Ricus
flours
Robt⁹
Rovs

so chosen and appointed by the
consent of the whole craft there
to present under a penalty of 20
pence &c

These statutes by
the guardians below
named from the mayor
and his council were
demanded on Monday
next after the feast of
the Conception of the
Glorious Virgin [8th
December] and gran-
ted &c the guardians
demanding the afore-
said

Richard
Flours
Robert
Rovis

And on Thursday next after the
feast of the conversion of Saint
Paul [25th January] Robert
Rovis beforesaid was exonerated
by the high officers aforesaid
and in the place of that Robert
Thomas Bury Sherman was elect-

[Folio 302a.]

³⁰⁰ The ordinance of this folio commences abruptly, a leaf or leaves having been omitted in binding.

etus p maiorem Admitt^o ad p^odic-
tos defect^o siqui s^uunt cū Ri^oo
fflours p^odic supuidende vsq; s^um
s^uei Michis p^ox seq^us & ad hoc
Jura^o

ed to the same duty by the
Mayor admitted to supervise
the abovenamed deficiencies (if
any) with Richard Floures above
named until the feast of Saint
Michael next following and sworn
to the same

[Folio 101b.]

TEMPE RI^oCI MEYE MAIORIS ANNO H VJ^u VJ^o P RETON^o
[IN THE TIME OF RICHARD MEYE MAYOR ³⁰¹ 6TH HENRY THE
SIXTH FOR SHOEMAKERS]

first it is ordenyd that all the maisters of Shermanicraft within
the fraunchise of Norhampton dwellyng thull En^oemble to gedir at
a serten day Amonge hem Assigned That is to witte all Sow^un
day [2nd November] at the White ffreris ³⁰² And ther to chese too
wardens for the yere next folowyng and p^osent hem to the mayre
for the tyme beyng the monday next folowyng And ther to be sworn
to hafe and Receyfe power sufficient to governe and ou^olee and
serche all the maisters of the seide Crafte whethir any defeaute be
founde amonge hem or may be the same yere soo next folowyng

The secounde is that the seid maistres for the tyme beyng and for
them that thulcome in tyme comyng thull hafe pleyn and sufficient
powere that whan they fynde Anotable defeaute in the seide crafte to
do it to be Amendid by the seide maisters for the tyme being
shulde do to belevyed os meche mony os the owner of the cloth
shulde paye to the sherman for theryng of the same vnto the tyme
that the seide cloth of the same Sherman be well and treuly and
werkmanly wrought And that the same Sherman so trespassyng
shall be punysshid be the meire for the tyme beyng that is for
to sey xxd to the town And other xxd to the seide Crafte And
forthermore to the maires s^uieaunt iiijd for his laboure of sechyng
hym Jnne os oftyen os the seide Sherman is founde in fuche defeaute

The thirde is that noo straunge man of the seide Crafte be the

³⁰¹ Richard Meye or Mey was Mayor of the town in 1427-8.

³⁰² The priory of the Carmelites or White Friars stood near Grey Friars, i.e. the
north-east of the town. It was founded in 1271 by Simon Montfort and Thomas
Chitwood.

day or be the weke wyrking from this day forwarde shall not occupye nor sette vppe any shoppe in the forseide Crafte opynly nor preuely withowte that he be proved Able of connyng & abull of his owne propur stufte to werke with be the seide maisters for the tyme beyng³⁰³

[Folio 102a.]

The fourte is that euery man of the seide Crafte at his begynnynge of his setting vppe shall paye to the seide toun xxd and to the seide Crafte xxd

The fyfte is that no man of noon othir Crafte shall mayntene coloure nor supporte be no meane noo maner of man of the seide crafte to wyrke in the seide Crafte, within the seide ffraunchise withoute licence of the seide maisters for the tyme beyng vpon the peyne of A Cs to be payed to the toun os ofte os it fortunes to fall &c³⁰⁴

The sixte is that no sherman within the seide ffraunchise dwellyng from this daye forwarde shall occupye be no maner meane ffulleriscrafte for diuerse deceytes of the seid Crafte, nor noo man⁹ fuller within the seide ffraunchise dwellyng shall occupye be no maner of meane Shermaniscrafte within the seid ffraunchise vpon the peyne of Cs to be payed to the toun os ofte os Any of hem be founde gylte &c³⁰⁴

The vijth is that what man⁹ man of the seid Crafte is Rebell and wilnot obeie to the seide statutes aboue seide be hee Arrested be the maires s⁹ieaunt and comitte to prisoun yeldyng to the seyde s⁹ieaunt for his labur iiijd os ofte os it fortunes to fall. And that the seide trespassoure be not delyu⁹ed from prisoun withoute A fyne of xld to be payed to the toun and to the Crafte xxd withowte any Releife for his Rebellyon

The viijth is that if the seide statutes be not obserued kepte nor ou⁹seen be the maisters for the tyme beyng than the seid maisters

[Folio 102b.]

³⁰³ The following words have been added to this paragraph by a later hand:—"in payne of xxs halfe to the maier and halfe to the craft."

³⁰⁴ The following words have been added to each of these paragraphs by a later hand:—"halfe to the maier & halfe to the crafte."

schull he punnyfychyd be the maire and his counsell so that the maires grace be not ffauorably doon to hem in noo wyse &c

Allso it is ordeyned by the seide Crafte that eu^y howsholder of the seide Crafte within the seide ffraunches dwellyng schall be at all tymes redy to obeye to the wardeyns of the seid Crafte for the tyme beyng to come at their somouns at any tyme. whan so eu^y it shall lyfte theyme to calle the Crafte to gedur. ffor any inater that shall be lefull for theym to comyn or purpose for the wele or for the worfchipe of god and of the toun or of the Crafte Inne the peyne of the price of a pounce wax to be levyed withoute any Relese. But ther be a resonable excu^{se}. And that eu^y thoppe holder shall pay euery yere to the repacion of the torches iiijd. And eu^y Journeyman that worcheth in the seide Crafte ou⁹ xiiij dayes shall pay to the seid repacons of the torches ijd. And the Maitters that luche a Journey man worcheth with shall answere to the wardens of the seid ijd. Jf it be so that the Journeyman departe owte of the toun And it oon payed if the wardeyns aske it or he departe And ellys it shall stonde in ther owne nekkys &c

[Folio 103a.]

M^o Q^d XXVII^o DIE OCTOB^r ANNO R^r HENRICI SEPTIJ X^{mo}
CORAM RO^gS BUTTELER MAIOR RI^{co} EMSON RECORDATOR
IN CAPELLA CORPORⁱ XPI

[MEMORANDUM THAT ON THE 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER [1494]
IN THE TENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VII
BEFORE ROGER BUTTELER³⁰⁵ MAYOR AND RICHARD EMSON³⁰⁶
RECORDER IN THE CHAPEL OF CORPUS CHRISTI³⁰⁷]

Hit is ordeyned & prouyded alwey that no baker wⁱⁿ this Town from henfforward shalnot kepe no man⁹ off Ostery to receyve noo moo horse but iiij horse at the moste in the payn of xxs at eu^y tyme that he is takyn wth defaute

No Jnn bake
hors brede nor
mans bred

Allso moreou⁹ that noo Jnholder wⁱⁿ this town from henfforth shall bake no man⁹ of horsebrede nor manny's brede wⁱⁿ his Jnne vpon the payn of xxs at eu^y tyme that he is takyn the defawte

³⁰⁵ Roger or Robert Buttelor or Butler was Mayor of the town in 1495-6, and member at the Parliament held 4th Henry VII.

³⁰⁶ For note as to Richard Emson see page 312.

³⁰⁷ "Within the parish-church of *All Saints* was the Gild in honour of the body of Christ; founded by *Henry Gayshoo*, *John de Geytington*; *John Horne*, and others."

MO FR̄M CARMELITAR
NTE CARMELI NORHT

FOR THE HOUSE OF THE
BROTHERS CARMELITE
OF MOUNT CARMEL³⁰⁸ AT
NORTHAMPTON

[Folio 103b.]

ad primi motoris laudem
imobit simplicia singula
peris motu p̄ ip̄m cir-
cūtinuo & non difformi
terice continue mouent̄
vniu⁹si destruccio in in-
si subito sequeret̄ etiam
vniū oīni Speras terra
n mouens ymmo semp
ip̄o summo opifice mir-
q̄m centrum situatur vt
statuta formosā ip̄m
mouens immobile oīni
conditorem vniu⁹se crea-
oīnia laudarent . Jñ oīni
tura nobil microcosmus
turata . qui ad ymaginem
iuse centrum cuius est
circumferencia nufq̄m
ngratulando s̄uire p̄ci-
s est et ḡtuite optando
ante manciparet mani-
up isto concluditur Qd
t̄ ip̄e veritatis qui non
nunciat veritatem in
icitatis necessitatis vt
on dominet̄ iniquitas s;

Whereas to the praise of the
first Mover glorious and immove-
able all simple things in their
spheres are moved by Him in con-
tinuous circular motion and not
by irregular spherical motion
lest the destruction of the whole
universe should follow as it were
suddenly in an instant and below
the spheres of all these the
earth not indeed moving of itself
ever standing fixed is set by Him
the greatest Artist wonderfully
like a centre so that for His fair
appointments Himself the first
Mover immoveable the Founder
of all things all creatures should
for all things praise In the nature
of all things the noble microcosm
of nature which after the image
of the first Cause whose centre is
everywhere and circumference
nowhere was principally made
to serve by shewing gratitude
and by freely desiring with such
importunity should deliver mani-
festly so that it is concluded
from that That he is a betrayer
of the truth who does not freely
utter the truth in time of near
necessity that iniquity may not
domineer over justice but ever

priory of the Carmelites, or White Friars, stood near the Grey Friars,
east of the town. It was founded in 1271, by Simon de Montfort and
hitwood.

semp ad dī laudem subdat^r falsitas veritati hinc est qd Thomas Sale maior ville Norhampton sedis Apostolice atq; impat Notarius pu^m sine sue anime detrimento sana intentione mente oculata ppendens [qu] omodo mundo senescenti ipe indies ad pcliua sustinenda set destabili^r inclin^r. matura .p^d deliberatione & pitoz confilio volens dī cultū Augmentā^r atq; cū debita tⁿ-quillitate religiosoz iuxta vires honorem fouere & pturbationem iustitia suadente infra Burgum regiū ppetuis tempibz eradicare penitus & explantare Quocirca ad decorem domus dei & quietem Religiosoz viroz ffru ordinis beatissime dei genitricis Marie de monte Carmeli in pochia sēi Michaelis Archili North in manerioali quondam bone memorie dñi Simonis de Mōte forte olim Comitis Leycestrie comorantiū cunctis & singlis xpi fidelibz innotescimus pñentiū sub tenore . Quali^r Anno dominice incarnationis Milmo qdringentesimo tertio et regis nri Henrici sexti post conq̄m Anno

to the glory of God falsehood may be subject to truth Hence it is that Thomas Sale mayor of the town of Northampton of the apostolic and imperial see a notary public without detriment to his own soul with sound intention considering secretly in his mind now that the world is growing old he himself is daily inclining to sustain things tottering and unstable therefore with mature deliberation and with the counsel of skilled men wishing to extend the worship of God and with due tranquillity to cherish the honour of men devoted to religion according to his means and with the persuasion of justice to root out disturbance within the royal borough for all time to come and utterly to remove it Wherefore for the comeliness of the house of God and for the quietude of the men of religion the brothers of the Order of the most Blessed Mary the Mother of God of Mount Carmel in the parish of St Michael the Archangel at Northampton dwelling in the manor once belonging to the Lord Simon de Montfort of good memory formerly Earl of Leicester to all and singular faithful servants of Christ we make known under tenor of these presents how in the 1403rd year of our Lord's Incarnation and in the second year of our King Henry the Sixth after the Con-

secundo penultio die mensis februarij ad instantiam & Rogatum Magri Nichi Cantelowe sacre pagine p̄fessoris Prioris ad tunc domus Ac Conuentus f̄rm p̄dcoz ac alioz p̄boz fideliū cū cetū ven^o-abili viroz discretoz vidett Johis Wellis Thome Warwike Riçi Wemmys Johis Havle Galfridi Balde Johis Ryvel Thome Stotusbury Johis Hancok Johis Bernhill Johis Baldeswell Johis Bertram Raðhi Passenham Riçi Wilby Thome Sutton cōis s^uientis Thome Tyssyngton Johis Launden cōmis clici Ac alioz multoz ad hoc sp̄iali^r vocatoz in forma iuris auditis Rationibz & allegationibz visis qz evidencijs & diligen^r exaiatis put iustitia decuit declaramus & manifestamus apte qd muri f̄rm p̄noiatoz cōnexi noui^r itm edificati & ante murale seu botras vt supposito^r ale Australi ecclie f̄rm p̄dcoz ad honorem Dei gtriose qz virgis matris eius itm eidm s^uientiū Annexa sunt & sūunt continue de fundo & de eēencia loci foundationis p̄dce Eozdm igit^r Prioris qz eius confrū p̄dcoz

quest on the last day but one of the month of February at the instance and petition of master Nicholas Cantelowe professor of Holy Writ then prior of the House and of the Convent of brothers aforesaid and of other good faithful men with the venerable company of discreet men namely John Wellis Thomas Warwike Richard Wemmys John Havle Geoffrey Balde John Ryvel Thomas Stotusbury John Hancok John Bernhill John Baldeswell John Bertram Ralph Passenham Richard Wilby Thomas Sutton common serjeant Thomas Tyssynton John Launden common clerk and many others specially called for this purpose in form of law having heard the reasons and allegations and having seen and carefully examined the evidence as in justice was right we declare and openly make known that the walls of the brothers before-mentioned newly erected and built there before the wall or buttress as a support to the south aisle of the church of the brothers aforesaid to the honour of God and the glorious Virgin His Mother who there serve the same are and have been extended continuously from the ground and from the essence of the place of the foundation aforesaid At the special instance therefore of these same persons its prior and brothers aforesaid

[Folio 104a.]

instantijs spialibz eisdem concedit
istud memoriale tñscribi & in
Registro poni

Hec bylla indentata fca iiij^{to}
die Maij anno r̄ E iiij^{to} decimo
in R̄m Burford & Johem Aste-
ley Camerarios ville Norhamp-
ton Et Johem Spristowe ac Tho-
mam Wiseman Collectores in
quarto Australi de quod subsidio
dco dno Regi concess ad sexa-
ginta valectos inueniende in
Jtin^e suo com̄ Lincoln &c testat^r
qd ijdē Cam^{arij} ad diūsas vices
receperunt de eisdem Collectoribz³⁰⁹

it is granted that this record be
transcribed and placed in the
registry

This bill indented made on
the 4th day of May in the 10th
year of the reign of King Edward
the Fourth between Richard Bur-
ford and John Asteley chamber-
lains of the town of Northampton
and John Spristowe and Thomas
Wiseman collectors in the South
Quarter about a certain subsidy
granted to the said Lord the
King for the finding of sixty
yeomen in his journey through
the county of Lincoln &c it is
certified that the same chamber-
lains on different occasions re-
ceived from the said collectors

[Folio 104b.]

MATERIA PETEND AD
PLIAMENT P̄ NORHAMPTON &C

Dand & concedend maiori
ville Norhampton Burgenfibz &
successoribz suis imppm omnimod
ffines Redemptōes amerciamen-
ta et exitus coram quibuscumq;
Justic seu maioribz & Alijs Cus-
tod pacis infra regnū Angt de
Aliqua p̄sona siue p̄son infra vil-
lam Norht comoranⁱ seu comō-
ratur de & sup Aliquibz offens̄ mes-
p̄sion negligens ffelonijs

MATTER TO BE DEMANDED AT
THE PARLIAMENT
FOR NORTHAMPTON &c

To be granted and conceded
to the mayor of the town of
Northampton to the burgesses
and their successors for ever
fines of every description re-
demptions penalties and out-
goings before whatsoever justices
or mayors and other keepers of
the peace within the realm of
England concerning any person
or persons sojourning in or in-
tending to sojourn within the
town of Northampton concerning
and about all kinds of offences
misprisions negligences felonies

³⁰⁹ This ordinance breaks off abruptly in the middle of a page.

transgression materijs querel defect causis & Articlis et omibz illis que ad Officiū Justic siue Custod pacis ptinent forissaciende audiende vl Adiudicande quomodo seu ex quacumq3 causā & ea ad opus & vsum burgenfium ville p̄dce p solutōe feod firme eiusdem ville leuar p̄cipe & cōmitter valeant Abiq3 Aliquibz extractibz inde in Sēcio mittend et Abiq3 impeditioe Aliquali Et illa fines Redempcoes Amerciamenta & exitus quibuscumq3 locis fūint forissact Maiori & Burgenfibus ville Northampton qui p tempe fūint certificari et Ascribi faciant infra mensē px seqū post sententiam in hac pte adiudicat p̄ &c

trespasses matters quarrels faults causes and articles and all those things which appertain to the office of justice or keeper of the peace assigning forfeits assessing or adjudicating in any manner or whatsoever cause and for the sending them to the exchequer without any deductions and without any delay that they may have power to levy receive and commit them to the use and benefit of the burgesses of the town aforesaid by payment of fee farm of the same town And those fines redemptions penalties and outgoings in whatsoever places they may have been forfeited they shall cause to be certified and ascribed to the mayor and burgesses of the town of Northampton for the time being within the month next following after the sentence adjudicated in this matter under a penalty &c

[CHARTER OF 2ND EDWARD IV., ³¹⁰

10th July, 1462.]



Ricardus dei gr̄a Rex Anglie & ffrañcie
dominus Hibernie omnibus ad
quos p̄sentes tre puen̄int Salutem Inspexi-
mus cartam dñi R nup Regis Anglie
Sēdi post conquestum fēam in hec verba

[Folio 105a.]

Ricardus dei gracia Rex Anglie ffrañcie & dominus Hibñie
Archiep̄is Ep̄is Abbibz Prioribus Ducibz Comitibus Baronibz

³¹⁰ This Charter, which inspects and confirms the grants of 11th and 41st Henry III., 27th Edward I., 8th Richard II., 30th Henry VI., and 38th Henry VI., is hereinbefore printed in English, amongst the charters on page 92.

Justi Vicecomitibus Prepositis Ministris & omnibus Balliis & fidelibus suis salutem Inspeximus quandam cartam celebris memorie domini & quondam Regis Anglie filii Regis H progenitoris nostri sanctam Burgenfibus ville nostre Norhampton in hec verba Edwardus dei gracia Rex Anglie Dominus Hibnie & Dux Aquitani Archiepiscopus Episcopus Abbatibus Prioribus Comitibus Baronibus Justiciis Vicecomitibus Prepositis Ministris & omnibus Balliis & fidelibus suis salutem Inspeximus cartam quam celebris memorie dominus H quondam Rex Anglie Pater noster fecit Burgenfibus Norhampton in hec verba Henricus dei gracia Rex Anglie Dominus Hibernie Dux Normani & Aquitani Comes Andegavorum Archiepiscopus Episcopus Abbatibus Prioribus Comitibus Baronibus Justiciis Vicecomitibus Prepositis ministris & omnibus Balliis & fidelibus suis salutem Sciatis nos concessisse & presenti carta nostra confirmasse Burgenfibus nostris de Norhampton quod nullus eorum possit extra muri Burgi Norhampton de aliquo plito preter plita de tenuris exterioribus exceptis monetariis & ministris nostris Concessimus etiam eis quietanciam murdri infra Burgum & inportoka et quod nullus eorum faciat duellum & quod de plitis ad coronam pertinentibus se possunt distracionare secundum consuetudinem civitatis London et quod infra muros burgi illius nemo capiat hospitium per unum vel per libacionem Mercatalli Et quod omnes Burgenfes Norhampton sint quieti de theolomo & lestagio per totam Angliam & portus maris et quod nullus de misericordia pecunie indicetur nisi secundum legem quam fuerunt Cives nostri London tempore H Regis Aui nostri et quod in Burgo illo in nullo plito sit Meskeninga et quod husting semel tantum in ebdomada teneantur Et quod terras & tenuras & vadia sua & debita sua omnia iuste habeant cuicumque eis debeat & de terris suis & tenuris que infra Burgum sunt rectum eis teneatur secundum consuetudinem Burgi Et de omnibus debitis suis que accomodata fuerint apud Norhampton & de vadiis ibidem factis plita apud Norhampton teneantur Et si quis in tota Anglia theolonum vel consuetudinem ab hominibus Norhampton cepit postquam ipse arecto defecerit prepositus Norhampton namium inde apud Norhampton capiat INSUPER ETIAM et emendationem illius burgi eis concessimus quod sint quieti de Brudtoll & de Gildwit & de yeresyeue & de stotale Ita quod prepositus Norhampton vel aliquis alius Ballivus stotale non faciat has predictas consuetudines eis concessimus & omnes alias libertates & liberas consuetudines quas fuerunt Cives nostri London quando meliores vel liberiores fuerunt tempore predicti H. Regis Aui nostri secundum lib-

[Folio 105b.]

Nota.

ates London & leges Burgi Norhampton QUARE VOLUMUS & firmiter precipimus qd ipsi & heredes eorum hec omnia predicta hereditare habeant & teneant de nobis & heredibus nostris Reddendo pro annuo Centum & viginti libras numero de villa Norhampton cum omnibus pertinentiis suis ad Secum nostrum in termino sancti Michis per manum ppositi Norhampton Et Burgenses Norhampton faciant ppositum quem voluerint de se pro annuo qui sit idoneus nobis & eis hoc modo sciatis qd predicti Burgenses Norhampton per consilium villate sue eligant duos de legalioribus & discretionibus Burgensibus ville sue & presentent eos per iras suas patentes capitali Justiciario nostro apud Westmonasterium qui bene & fideliter custodiant pposituram ville Norhampton & non amoveant quomodo se in balliva sua bene gesserint nisi per consilium villate sue volumus etiam qd in eodem Burgo Norhampton per consilium villate eligantur quatuor de legalioribus & discretionibus hominibus de Burgo ad custodienda pposita corone nostre & alia que ad nos pertinent in eodem Burgo & ad videndum ppositi illius Burgi iuste & legitime tractent tam pauperes quam divites sicut carta domini Johis Regis patris nostri quam inde habent testatur rationabiliter HUIUS TESTIBUS venerabilibus patribus Joce- lino Bathoni R. Sacerdoti Episcopo Huberto de Burgo Comite Kant Justiciario nostro Willelmo filio Warini Radulpho filio Nichi Riccio de Argent Beneicall nostris Henrico de Capella & alijs dat per manum venerabilis patris R. Cicerii Episcopi Cancellarii nostri apud Westmonasterium sextodecimo die Martij Anno regni nostri undecimo Inspeximus etiam quandam aliam cartam quam predictus pater noster similiter fecit Burgensibus predictis in hec verba Henricus dei gratia Rex Anglorum dominus Hibernie Dux Normannie Aquitanie & Comes Andegavorum Archiepiscopus Episcopus Abbates Priores Comites Baronibus Justiciariis Vicecomitibus ppositis ministris & omnibus Ballivis & fidelibus suis scitis nos concessisse & hac carta nostra confirmasse Burgensibus nostris Norhampton qd ipsi & eorum heredes imposterum habeant returnum omni brevi nostro tam de summationibus sancti Michaelis nostri quam de aliis Burgum predictarum & libertatem eiusdem Burgi tangentibus Et qd ipsi respondeant per manus suas ad Scaecam nostram de omnibus debitis summationibus & demandis ipsos tangentibus Ita qd nullus vice aut alius ballivus vel minister noster decetero ingrediat predictum burgum ad aliquas districtiones summas aut alia facienda que ad eorum officium pertinent nisi per defectum eorumdem Burgensium vel heredum suorum Et qd habeant insangentem et qd nullus eorum impletur extra muros burgi Norhampton nisi de tenuris forinsecis aut etiam de aliqua transgressionem sancta in eodem Burgo nisi super re ius

Quatuor
Coronator

[Folio 106a.]

nrm vel psonam nam tangente Et qd dci Burgenfes non con-
uincant' p aliquos forinfecos sup aliquibz appellis rectis iniuriis
t'nfgreffionibz criminibz calumpniis aut demandis eis impofitis
aut imponendis fct solummodo p comburgētes fuos nifi de aliqua
re tāgente communitatem pdci Burgi & tunc in cafu illo de-
ducant' Scdm libertates fuas approbatas & hactenus vntatas
Et qd nullus mercator tempore nundinarū eiusdem Burgi cum
fuis mercandis nifi de licencia & voluntate balliuoz eiusdem
burgi put fieri debuit & confuevit temporibz pdecessorū nroz Re-
gum Angl & nro Et qd poffint ditricionem facere infra Burgum
pdcm p debitis fuis ficut hactenus fieri debuit & confuevit
[Folio 106b.] CONCESSIMUS ETIAM EIS qd fi aliqui eoz vbiqumqz in regna nra
teftati vel in teftati decellerint heredes eoz bona ipoz defunctorū
plenarie heant quatenus dci heredes rōnabili' monitrare poterint
bona ipa fuisse dcoz defunctorū Et qd ipi aut eoz bona non am-
tent' alicubi in regno nro nec ipi bona illa amittant p aliquā
t'nfgreffione s'uiuentum fuoz Et qd vti poffint hbtatibz fupius
content' in hac carta nra quicumqz volūint licet aliquibz tempo-
ribz eis vti uon fūint Concedim' etiam eis qd ipi & eoz heredes
heant omēs libtates ipis prius concessas p cartam nram & p
cartas pdecessoz nroz Regum Angl ficut eis rōnabili' hntent
vli fūnt Quare volum' & firmit' pcepim' p nob & heredibz nris
qd pdci Burgenfes & eoz hereds imppm heant libtates pdcas &
phibem' fup forefcouram nram ne quis eos cont' hanc concessio-
nram in aliquo ditrubit vel moleftet Hjs teftibz Galirido Gouern
de Leziū & Wifmo de Valence fribz nris Hen' de Barro
Pho Luuel Magro Johē Mantell Wifmo de Grey Walter de
Merton Nicho de fco Mauro Walkelmo de Arderū Petro Buc-
rard & aliis dat' p manū nram apud Westm' decimo octavo de
Januar anno regni nri quadragesimo primo Nos autem concedentes
pdcas ratas hntes & gratas eas p nobis & heredibz nris quatenus
in nob est pdcis Burgenfibz & heredibz fuis ac aliis fuccedentibz
fuis burgenfibz eiusdem ville imppm concedim' & confirmam'
put carte pdce rōnabili' teftant' Concessimus etiam p nos &
heredibz nris Burgenfibz pdcis qd ipi heredes ac fuccedentes qui
pdci fingulis Annis imppm ad feftum fci Michis elig'c poffint vnu
maiorē & duos balliuos de fe ipis & ipm quem tie elig'nt &
maiorē pftent ad Scacc' nrum infra octab eiusdem fefti qui
tunc ibm pftet facim de hiis que ad officiū maioratus ville per-
tinent fidelit' exequendis qui quidem maior & balliu nra pnt

libertatem ville p̄dce tangentia teneant & exc̄ceant put p ballivos
 eiusdē ville temporibz retroactis fieri consuevit Hijs testibz Ven-
 abilibz p̄ribz A Dunolm J Wynton & S. Say Ep̄is Henrico de Lacy
 Comite Lincoln Gwydone Comite War̄ Octoue [Otto] de Grandi-
 sono Waltero de Bello campo Senescallo Hoipicij n̄ri Wiffo le Brun
 Petro de Taynton & aliis dat p manū n̄ram apud Cantuar^o vice-
 ūmo sēptimo die Maij Anno regni n̄ri vicelimo sēptimo Nos
 autem concessiones p̄dēas ratas hentes & gratas eas p nob &
 heredibz n̄ris quantum in nobis est p̄dēis burgenfibz & heredibz
 suis ac alijs successoribz suis Burgenfibz eiusdem ville imp̄p̄m
 concedimus & confirmamus sicut carte p̄dce rōnabiliter testant^r
 Preterea volentes eidem Burgenfibz grām in hac pte fac̄e
 vbiorem concessimus eis & hac carta n̄ra confirmauim^o qd licet
 ip̄i vel eoz antecessores aliqua vel aliquibz lib̄tatum vel quietan-
 ciāz alquo casu em̄gente hactenus plene vū non fūint ip̄i tamen
 Burgentes heredes & successorēs sui Burgentēs eiusdem ville
 lib̄tatibz & quietanciis p̄dēis & eaz quāt decessō plene gau-
 deant & vtant^r abiqz impedimento n̄ri vel heredum n̄roz Justē
 Eicactoz Vicecomitū aut alioz Balliuoz seu Ministroz n̄roz quoz-
 cumqz Et insup in releuatōem ville p̄dce Volentes ip̄os Bur-
 gentēs ac heredes & successorēs suos p̄dēoz amplioribz respi^oce
 fauoribz lib̄tatum concessimus eis & hac carta n̄ra confir-
 mauim^o p nob & hered n̄ris qd ip̄i hēant cognitōem om̄i p̄litoz
 tam quazcumqz aillāz q^m alioz p̄litoz quozcuqz infra villam
 p̄dēam & suburbū eiusdem em̄gentiū tenendē coram Maiore
 & balliuis dēe ville p tempore existē in Gihalda ville p̄dce
 imp̄p̄m et qd Maior dicte ville qui p tempore fūit imp̄p̄m
 in villa p̄dta & suburbis eiusdem heat custodiam assitē panis vini
 & ceruie ac correctōem & punitōem eiusdem vna cum finibz
 am̄ciamentis & aliis p̄ficiis inde puenientibz in v̄tū Cōitatis
 ville & suburbioz p̄dēoz conutendis Acetiam custodiam assitē ac
 sup̄utū mensuraz & ponderē in villa & suburb p̄dēis tam in
 p̄sēntia n̄ra q^m in absēntia n̄ra & heredum n̄roz Ita qd Maior
 dēe ville qui p tempore fūit dēa mensuras & pondera sup̄uideat
 & ea que talia inuen^oit comburi & destrui & alia legalia & iusta
 deputari & cōsignari faciat nec non t^ongressiones quos in hac pte
 inuen^oit debite puniat & castiget tam in absēntia q^m in p̄sēntia
 n̄ra & heredum n̄roz quotiens opus fūit & sibi ratōnabili^o fore
 viderit faciendē Et qd Maior ibm p tempore existens imp̄p̄m heat
 potestatem tam in huiusmodi p̄sēntia q^m absēntia inquerendi &

[Folio 107a.]

Guybald

[Folio 107b.]

cognoscendi de forstallatoribz & regratorijs carnibz & pitibz putridis viciosis & alias incompetentibz in villa & suburbiis pdcis & sup hiis punitiōem debitam faciendi ac gubuaōem correctoem & punicōem pmissōz simul cum finibz forisfactuis amciamentis & alijs pficuis inde puenient in vsum Cōitatis ville & suburbiōz pdcōz similiū cōdūtendis Ita qd cūcus de mercato seu alius miniū n̄r vel heredum n̄roz se de pmissis seu aliquibz pmissōz seu aliquibz ad officiū cūci de mercato spectantibz siue ptinentibz in villa suburbiis pdcis nllatenus intromittat Hijs testibus venabilibz p̄ribz . W. Archiep̄o Cantuar totius Anglie Primate R London W Wynton Th Exon Ep̄is Johe Rege Castelle & Legionis [Leoni] Ducis Lancast̄r Edmundo Comite Canterb̄r [York] Thoma Comite Bukyngham Anunculis n̄ris Carissimis Riōo Arundell Hugone Staff Comitibz Miche de la Pole Cancellar Hugone de Segrave Thēs n̄ris Johe de Monte Acuto Senescallo Hospitij n̄ri & alijs Dat p manū n̄ram apud Westm̄ quarto decimo die Junij Anno regni n̄ri octauo JNSPEXIMUS etiam tras patentes H sexti nup de scō & non de iure Regis Angt scas in hec v̄ba Henricus dei gr̄a Rex Angt & ffrancie & Dominus Hibnie Omibz ad quos p̄sentes tre pueniunt Saltm̄ Sciatis qd cum nos considerantes qualiū hōies ville n̄re Norhampton p feodi firma eiūdem ville annuatim penes nos grauī onati extitunt vndecimo die Junij Anno regni n̄ri vicetimo t̄tio de gr̄a n̄ra sp̄ali & ob singularem affectoem quam ad ditcos nobis maiorem & Cōitatem ville pdcē gestimus & huius concesserimus p nobis & heredibz n̄ris qd tam quitt Burgensis ville pdcē qui extunc in Maiorem ville illius foret eleginde & Maior existet eo ip̄o & quāmcitius in Maiorem ville illius sit etcus & p̄fecus sūt qumqum extunc [nunc] Maior ville pdcē foret extunc Escaetor n̄r & hered & successōz n̄roz in villa pdcā & suburbiis & campis eiūdem ville durante tempore quo aliquis huiusmodi Burgensis in officio Maioratus ville pdcē statet Et qd idem Escaetor & successōres sui eadē herent potestatem iuridictōem auctoritatem & libtatem ac quecuq; alia ad officiū Escaetoris ptinentia in eisdem villa suburbis & campis que cēn Escaetores n̄ri ac heredum n̄roz alibi infra regnū Anglie herent & hebunt Et qd nullo tempore extunc futū aliquis alius Escaetor se de Aliquo officiū Escaetoris tangente infra villam suburbia & campos pdict̄ aliqualiū exercende intromet nisi tantum maior ville pdcē p tempore existens Et qd dēus maior sacramentum suū de officiū Escaetoris n̄ri ville pdcē bene & fidelit̄ faciend p̄taret

Escaetor

[Folio 108a.]

coram aliqua notabili & sufficiente psona p̄textu mandati n̄ri eidem p̄sone sub magno sigillo n̄ro dirigendi et qd̄ quitt maior ville p̄d̄ce ex tunc impossū eligendus tempore quo ip̄e sacramentum suū p̄staret coram Baronibz de Sc̄cio n̄ro & hered n̄roz de officio maioratus ville p̄d̄ce bene & fidelit̄ faciend sacramentum suū p̄stet coram eiusdem Baronibz de officio Escaetoris ville p̄d̄ce bene & fidelit̄ faciend & nobis & heredibz n̄ris de exitibz & reuentōibz de d̄co officio Escaetoris puenientibz ad Sc̄m n̄rm & hered n̄roz respondeat Et qd̄ idem Maior & successores sui tempore quo sacramentū suū coram p̄satis Baronibz p̄starent licite coram eiusdem Baronibz fac̄e possent attornat̄ ad faciend p̄fra sua & ad computand p̄ eis in Sc̄cio n̄ro & hered n̄roz de exitibz eiusdem Escaetrie annuatim put carta n̄ra inde confecta plenius continet' Jamqz ex parte d̄coz homi nobis est datum intelligi qd̄ carta n̄ra ac om̄ia & singula in eadem contenta vigore ac virtute cuiusdam actus in parlamento n̄ro apud Westm̄ Anno regni n̄ri vicesimo octauo inchoato & apud Leycest̄ finito ac cuiusdam altius actus in vltimo parlamento n̄ro apud Westm̄ similis̄ tento vacua & nullius effectus eidem hōibz existunt vt dicit' in ip̄oz homi ac ville n̄re p̄d̄ce dampnū non modicum & grauamen Vnde nob̄ humili' supplicarunt vt sibi alias tras n̄ras patentes Sibi in hac pte ḡrose concedere dignarem' Nos eoz supplicatōi in hac parte fauorabilis̄ inclinati de gr̄a n̄ra sp̄ali & ob singularem affectoem quam ad dilect̄ nob̄ maiorem & Cōitatem ville illius gerimus & nemus concessimus iam de nouo p̄ nobis & heredibz n̄ris qd̄ tam quitt Burgēsis ville p̄d̄ce qui impossū in maiorem ville illius fuit eligendus & maior existet eo ip̄o & qmcitius in maiorem ville illius sic elcus & p̄fectus fuit q̄m nunc maior ville p̄d̄ce sit extunc Escaetor n̄r hered & successōz n̄roz in villa p̄d̄ca suburbiis & campis eiusdem ville durante tempore quo aliquis huiusmodi Burgensis in officio Maioratus ville p̄d̄ce stetit Et qd̄ idem Escaetor & successores sui eadē h̄eant potestatem iurisdictionē auctoritatem et lib̄tatem ac quecumqz alia ad officiū Escaetoris p̄tinentia in eidem villa suburbiis & campis que cet̄i Escaetores n̄ri ac heredum n̄roz alibi infra regnū Anglie h̄ent & h̄ebunt Et qd̄ nullo tempore futu' aliquis alius Escaetor se de aliquo officiū Escaetoris tangente infra villam suburbia & campos p̄d̄et aliqualis̄ exc̄cendē intromittat nisi tañ Maior ville p̄d̄ce p̄ tempore existens Et qd̄ d̄cus nunc maior sac̄m suū de officio Escaetoris n̄ri ville p̄d̄ce bene & fidelit̄ faciend p̄stet coram aliqua sufficient & no-

[Folio 108b.]

Nota

[Folio 109a.]

Corporat

tabili psona p̄textu mandati n̄ri eidem p̄sone sub magno sigillo n̄ro dirigend Et qd quillt Maior ville p̄d̄ce impos̄um eligendus tempore quo ip̄e sac̄m suū p̄stabit coram Baronib; de S̄c̄cio n̄ro & heredum n̄roz de officio maioratus ville p̄d̄ce bene & fidelit̄ faciend sac̄m suū p̄stet coram eisdem Baronib; de officio Escaetoris ville p̄d̄eo bene & fidelit̄ faciend & nobis et heredib; n̄ris p̄d̄eis de exitib; reuentōib; de d̄eo officio Escaetoris puenientib; ad S̄c̄m n̄rm & heredum n̄roz annuatim respondeat Et qd idem maior succēssores sui tempore quo sac̄m suū coram p̄fatis Baronib; p̄stabunt licite coram eisdem Baronib; fac̄e possint attornat̄ ad faciendē profra sua & ad computandē p̄ eis in S̄c̄cio n̄ro & heredum n̄roz de exitib; eiusdem Escaetrie annuatim In cuius rei testimoniū has tras n̄ras fieri fecimus patentes Teste me ip̄o apud Westm̄ duodecimo die Martij anno regni n̄ri tricesimo JNSPEXIMUS insup cartam p̄d̄ei H sexti nup vt p̄mittit̄ Regis sc̄m in hec v̄ba Henricus dei gr̄a Rex Angl & ffrancie & Dominus Hib̄nie Archiep̄is Ep̄is Abbib; Priorib; Ducib; Comitib; Baronib; Justic Vicecomitib; Prepositis Ministris & omib; balliuis & fidelib; suis saltm̄ Sciatis qd nos non solum magna & notabilia obsequia que fideles hōies & burgen̄es ville n̄re Norhampton nobis ante hec tempora verumetiam magna & notabilia obsequia que iam tarde ip̄i p̄ diuturnam attendentiam & assistentiam p̄sone n̄re regie ad sua gr̄via custus expensās & on̄a impenderunt considerantes qm̄ obrem ip̄i & p̄ solutōem feodi firme ville p̄d̄ce multiplici gr̄uatia & on̄ati existunt vt accepimus Cumq; etiam maior & ballui in villa p̄d̄ca continue a tempore quo non extat memoria extiterunt qui diūsas lib̄tates franchises quietancias immunitates ex concessionib; inclitoz p̄genitoz n̄roz quondam regum Anglie & n̄ri p̄ sana & condecēte gūbnatiōe eiusdem ville huerunt & optinuerunt Volentes igit̄ & ob singularem affectōem quam ad dil̄cos nob̄ Wilm̄ Austyn Armiḡum nunc maiorem ville p̄d̄ce & burgen̄es et Cōitatem eiusdem ville gerimus & hemus munificentiam n̄ram regiam eisdem Burgensib; in hac pte gr̄osius exhibere de gr̄a n̄ra sp̄ali & exmero motu & c̄ta scientia n̄ris concessimus & hac p̄senti carta n̄ra confirmauimus p̄ nob̄ hered & succēssorib; n̄ris Burgensib; ville p̄d̄ce & succēssorib; suis imppm̄ lib̄tates franchises quietancias & immunitates subscrip̄t Vidett qd villa illa de vno maiore duob; Balliuis & Burgensib; sit imppm̄ corporata et qd ijdem maior ballui & burgen̄es ville illius sic corporate sint vna cōitas p̄petua corporata in re & nōne p̄ nomen maioris balliuor &

burgenſium ville illius heantq; ſucceſſionem ppetuam Et qd iſdem
 maior balliui & burgenſes & ſucceſſores ſui p̄dci p idem nomen
 ſint p̄ſone habiles in lege ad om̄imod p̄lita ſectas querelas & de-
 mandas necnon actoes reales p̄ſonales & mixtas mota ſeu mouenda
 in quibuſcumq; Cuſ n̄ris vel hered n̄roz aut alioz quozcumq; tam
 coram nobis & hered n̄ris qm coram quibuſcumq; Juſtiē &
 Judicibz ſp̄ualibz & ſecularibz p̄ſequend & defendenda et qd ipi in
 eiſdem p̄litare poſſint & implacitare et reſpondere & reſponderi
 Conceſſimus etiam p nobis & hered n̄ris p̄dcis p̄ſatis nunc maiori
 & burgenſibz & ſucceſſoribz ſuis qd quandocumq; aliquis maior
 dēe ville p tempore exiſtens infra tempus officij maioratus ſui
 aliquo modo obire ſeu cauſa infirmitatis vel aliquo alio cauſa
 Ceſſare ſeu vacare contiḡit ſic qd dēe officiū debite exequi non
 poſſit tunc dēi burgenſes ville p̄dēe heredes & ſucceſſores ſui ple-
 nam potēſtatem iuriſdictōem auctoritatem & libtatem ad huſtēḡ
 dēe ville p̄a tenend poſt obitum ceſſatōem ſeu vacatōem huiuſ-
 modi maioris heant ad eligend int̄ ſe vnū aliū de comburgenſibz
 dēe ville in maiorem dēe ville Qui quidem Maior ſic electus ſeu
 eligendus ſacr̄m ſuū de officiō maioratus & Eſcaetoris eiūdem ville
 coram Baronibz de Scēio n̄ro & hered n̄roz p̄ſtet ad officia illa
 bene & fideliter faciend obſeruand custodiend & exequend ac
 nob & hered n̄ris de exitibz & reuentōibz de dēo officio Eſcaetoris
 puenient̄ ad Scēm n̄rm & hered n̄roz annuatim reſpondend put
 antea annuatim fieri conſueuit totiens quociens cauſus p̄dcus euenire
 contiḡit Et vlt̄ius de habundanti gr̄a n̄ra conceſſimus p nobis
 hered & ſucceſſoribz n̄ris p̄ſatis nunc maiori & burgenſibz ville
 p̄dēe & ſucceſſoribz ſuis qd tam idem nunc Maior qm quilq; bur-
 genſis ville p̄dēe qui impoſſum in maiorem ville illius fuit
 eligendus & maior exiſtet eo ipſo & qm̄citius in Maiorem eiūdem
 ville ſit electus & p̄fectus extunc ſit Juſtiē ſiue Cuſtos pacis n̄re
 hered ſiue ſucceſſoz n̄roz infra villam p̄dēam ſuburb & campos
 eiūdem ville put ſe extendunt conſeruand durante tempore quo
 aliquis huiuſmodi burgenſis in officio maioratus ville p̄dēe extitit
 ac dantes & concedentes eiſdem maiori burgenſibz & ſucceſſoribz
 ſuis qui maiorem eiūdem ville impoſſum fuit eligend plenam
 tenore p̄ſentiū auctoritatem potēſtatem ad om̄ia & ſingula faciend
 ex̄cend & exequend que ad Juſtiē ſiue Cuſtodem pacis n̄re infra
 villam p̄dēam ſuburb & campos eiūdem ville put ſe extendunt
 debite imp̄p̄m p̄tinent faciend Et qd nullum Warantatum de ſup-
 ſedendo p̄ſecuritate pacis ſub teſtimonio alicuius Juſtiē n̄roz hered

Maior &
 burgenſ
 Corporate

[Folio 109b.]

vocat

burgenſes

Cuſtod pacis

[Folio 110a.]

& successores nostros de pace in Com̃ North conseruand assignat seu assignand infra libertatem dñe ville decesso allocet nisi nōia manucaptoꝝ & summam in quibꝫ nobis dñi manucapli coram huiusmodi Justic tenent' p recognitiōem suam in hac pte plenarie exp'ssant & declarant' vt dñs maior & successores sui qui custodiam pacis ibidem tam ex concessione nra q'm pgenitoꝝ nroꝝ bent debite nobis in quibuscumqꝫ Cuñ nris de huiusmodi securitate cōtificate possint Acetiam de vñiori grā nra concessimus p nobis hered & successoribꝫ nris p'fatis nunc Maiori balliuis & burgenlibꝫ & successoribꝫ suis qd nec ijdem Maior balliui & burgeniēs neceoz aliquis infra dñi villam & suburb eiusedem comorantes & residentes fiant seu fiat decesso taxatores adēssores siue Collectores seu taxator Atteisor siue collector alicuius taxe quote seu subsidij aut quindecime & decime siue alius taxe impositōis seu tallagij cuiuscumqꝫ nobis hered seu successoribꝫ nris p Cōitatem regni nri Anglie concedend de seu in Com̃ in North p'dēe nec alibi p'l q'm in p'dēa villa Northampton suburb & campis eiusedem put se extendunt tm set qd ipi & eoꝝ quitt inde totali' sint quieti & exon'ati imppm Huius testibꝫ ven'abilis p'ribꝫ Th Cantuar & W Eboꝝ Archiep̃is W Wynton Cancellario nro & L Dunotm Custode privati sigilli nri Ep̃is ac carissimis Consanguineis nris Hen' Exon & Humfro Bukyngh ducibꝫ Johe Salop & Jacobo Wiltes The's nro Comitibꝫ Johe de Beaumont & Hen' Bourghchier vicecomitibꝫ necnon diltis & fidelibꝫ nris Johe de Beauchamp Senescallo hospitij nri & Ricō Turnitall Camario nro militibꝫ & aliis Dat p manū nram apud Westm̃ quattodecimo die Marcij Anno regni nri tricesimo octauo Nos autem cartas & tras p'dēas ac om̃ia & singula contenta in eisdem ratantes & grata ea p nobis & heredibꝫ nris quantum in nobis acceptamus & approbamus ac diltis nobis nunc Maiori Balliuis & burgenlibꝫ ville p'dēe & successoribꝫ suis ratificamus & confirmamus put carte & tre p'dēe rōnabili' testant' In cuius rei testimoniū has tras nras fieri fecimus patentes Teste me ipo apud Westm̃ decimo die Julij Anno regni nri Sēdo Pro quinqꝫ marcis solut in hanapio

Swerendon

Ex^o per { Johe Chamberleyn } Clicos
{ et Robtū Waltham }

THE OTHE FFOR THE MEIRE AND CLERKE OF THE
MERKET & CHARGE

first ye shull treuly & dewly with all your diligence enquire not sparyng ffor kynred ne for affynyte of any pñone but that ye shall certysye and preient vs clerke of the market ffor the kyng of all maner thynges that ye shall be charged to enquire of longyng to oure office & kepyng of the kynges counsell your felawes & your owne so help you god and holy dome and be this boke

Ye shull enquire if the pylory & the tombrell be strong or well repaired or not yf any man or woman be demed thertto that he or she shall nether lese lyffe ne lymme but go vp safe & come down safe with owte Any piſchyng of body

ñ 1

BAKERS

Allſo of all maner of bakers that bake to the ſale that they bake good brede and of good bultell iiij loſys for 1d And ij lovis for a jd and no peny brede but if hit be ſpokyn for howſolde

ñ 2

[Folio 111a.]

BREWERS

Allſo of all Brewers that thei brewe Good Ale and holſome for mannys body And that they ſell be meſur enſealed. And yf thei ſell be any Cuppe choppet or thyrndall pſent them to vs. ffor the ſtatute of the grete chartor the xv chapitur vna meſur vini & ſuicie & vnam pondus &c One weight and one meſure thorough owte the realme of Englonde

ñ 3

BUSCHELL

Allſo that no man ſell be vnſealed buſchell or meſur And bye be a grete buſchell and ſell be a leſſe do vs to wete &c

ñ 4

BOCHERS

Allſo if that any fleſchewers that be called bochers ſell any on ſeaſond fleſcwe that is leſte in gobbete or in pecis the thorſday and ſell it on the ſonday or kyll any meſell hogges or any ſowe that is late brymmyd or kowe fleſch that is enveled or ewe that is w^t lambe for theiſe be pilous to mannys body And that thei take non exces more than vppon .xiij. a jd wyunnyng And of all exces takyn do vs witte ffor it is agayne the comyn lawe

ñ 5

TANNERS

- 8 6 Allso of all man⁹ of Tanners that be wonte to sell rawe ledder not well tannyd ffor it shulde be a yere and a day in the same fface And yf he doo the contrary he shulde lese vjs viijd And all Tanners that worcheth ranced leddur ffor it is contrary to the lawe And the cordyner shall for eu^y payre thouis so evell tanned or Botis thall lese .vjs viijd . ffor it is the statute Anno ij^o Hen^r vj^u ³¹¹(And that no Cordyner take no man⁹ exces for A payr mannys shous but vjd A woman A payre shoue for iiijd This statute was made in Edward^e dayes the thyrde) And that he sell no shoue of falce leddur And that he do no disceite in kutting of leddar that coryed in waltes of schone &c

[Folio 122b.]

FFYSSHERS

- ñ 7 Allso of all ffysbers that sell ffyshe that it be not putred ffyshe ne corrupt ffyshe And astir that it is be watred & not be salted Ageyn And that he take non exces in fellyng ther off

JNNEHOLDERS

- 8 Allso that no man⁹ Jnneholders bake no horsebrede wⁱⁿ his Ostry ne no where ellis for it is forbeden bi the statute in kyng Rychard^e tyme Anno xij^o And in kyng H the iiij^u is tyme ne no whete brede ne brewe non ale And that he take for a buicheil ootes but oð over the prife that it is in the market for it is ordeyned be the statute of Cambrigge And be statute above seid And p⁹sent hem to vs

SPICERS

- 9 Allso of man⁹ spicers that sell spicery that they sell be no cor- nette ne be no hornes but be weight Ensealed w^t the kyng^e seall Ne safferon be peny nor be gess^e of the hande nor exces

DRAPERS

- 10 Allso of all man⁹ drapers Mercers And that thei sell be yarde and Ell sealed with the kyng^e seall and if thei do the contrary

³¹¹ The paragraph "And that no cordyner take no manner exces for a payr mannys shous but vjd A woman a payr shoue for iiijd This statute was made in Edwards dayes the thyrde" has been struck out in the *Liber* by a later hand.

p^rsent hem to vs how many jardis or ellunys that thei have
solde for it is agoode ffoffet

TAILLOURS

Also if any Tailleur that hath Any yarde vnsealed not
According to the draps yarde for it is sclaunder to þe draps 11

FFERROURS

[Folio 112a.]

Also that all man^o of fferroures sell horse schon of viij naile for a
jd And that he take for jti of rough yron settyng on q^a

TAVERNERS

Also of all man^o Taūners that sell any Corupte wyne that
is nott holsome for mannys body and that he sell be mesure
ensealed and ellis p^rsent how many tonnes pypes hoggethedes
that he hath J sould on such wyse ffor the kyng ought hafe the
volour so j solde the taūner to preson And the Taūne dore to be
shete Jnne vnto the tyme that he hafe pdon of the kyng or ellis
of the kynge stywarde of howsolde 12

COKES

Also if any Coke rechafe fleūh or ffyssh bake or sodyn that
was onys colde and that he non exces take in the sellyng 13

COUPERS

Also if any Couper make any mesures but they be accordyng
to the kynge standard As he may Afered be fore the Clerke of þe
m^okett 14

MILLERS

Also yf any millner take exces toll other wise than be the
Tolle dyūh ensealed ffor he shulde take the tolle be ratō^r and not
be combell nor be Cantell 15

WEYZTIS OF AUNCELL

Also yf any man waye be auncell ffor it is forboden be the
statute and he is a Curfed be the Chirche in Case that he occupy
hem weying inwarde or owtewarde

OTHER WEYGHTEIS

- 16 Also yf any man bye or sell woll wax flax or any man^o of Au^odepeyse be bones or stones the which may not be sealed Accordyng to the kyng^e weyghtes for suche weyghtes disceyveth the kyng^e people both in byyng & in sellyng &c

FFORSTALLERS

- 17 Also of all man^o of fforstallers comyn to town or to market
[Folio 115b.] And lyen in a wayte with oute the town or market and byeth eyther Corne Catell pullett wylde foule ffyssh fflessh or any other man^o thyng And thus be that means of his grete disceyte and encrese in poryng & hurtyng of the pore people. And thus desceyte the riche men and makyng hem to bye the darrer p^osent hem vs

REGRATOURS

- 18 Also of another man^o of forstaller and regratour that fforstalls and regrates the markette in Townes & mkettes wher that thei gone Aboute not withstanding ther is in the Town & markette dewe ovre and tyme be the ordynaunce made and sett. That no man shall open his m^ochandysse ne bye ne sell till that owre come And to that entente that all men shulde by after the fyrst hande so than comyth thiss fforstallers and regratoris to the m^oket be fore the ovre and tyme sett. Prevely goyng abowte chepyng and byyng be his offre euy thyng that hym semeth good for to doo corne catell ffyssh fflessh pullett wylde foule and all other thyng^e And thus he chepith and byeth all thyng^e And so kepith in his honde That where the kyng^e people schulde bye at the ffyrst hande of them that owith hit. ffyrst so than the pore man muste by of them at the secounde honde and the thride honde thoo that he knowe p^osent them to vs

THAT MAKE THE MARKET IN THER HOWSES

- 19 Also of all tho men that vse to make ther m^okett in her howses and call into her house the people that comyth and wolde come to the market and ther byeth all man^o of vitaille and marchandise and so ye shall vnderstonde he is A forstaller and regratour of the market³¹² (in makyng of the people pore) yf ye knowe eny such present them to vs &c.

³¹² The paragraph "in makyng of the people pore," has been struck out in the *Liber* by a later hand.

Also ye shall equere of all man⁹ men that vsen to sende ther men and such as bene or woll bene of their assent to the town or too the markett with ther owne marchandise. Or vitaille that is corne Catell pullett wilde foule ffish flessh milke Chese Buttur or any other thyng. Anon astir hym selfe comyng in to the town or m⁹ket chepyng and proferyng for this marchaundise or vitaille as it were not his And thus he be the sotelte and disceite of hym thus lovyng or bedyng for his owne marchaundise or vitaille shulde make the price of all the markett Aryse be a o⁶ or a jd⁴. And thus he forfallith and regrateth the merket Enporeth the kynges liege people and scornynge and mokkyng the riche people the contrary to the lawe and statute made in kyng Herryes tyme the iiij⁴. Also in kyng Edward tyme the iij^d and so &c Also if any p⁹one bye or sell any man⁹ of corne other wyse than by Busshell rasid with owte hepe or Cautell

¹¹³ Also of iij prices of whete the first the secounde and the thirde takyng iij market dayes Afore this day And the best for the kyng. Also of Barly peiyn benys & Otis and heye for our soudayn lordys horse As for his sadill be one daye & one nyght. A galon A galoun of the best ale. A galon of the best wyne of Gaskoyne

ffe

¹¹³ Also ye shall enquire of the Stiward or of the Bayllyfs of the town yf thei take Any ffynes or mede for ther luker or singuler Awayle in brekyng of the lawe made & sette in kyng Herry the iiij⁴ in his reigne liij yer be the which mede and Ayayle taken thus wyse that where the baker or the Bruer brekyng the Assise of brede and Ale shulde have Jugement the baker to the pylary And the bruer to the Tombrell with owte any redempcion or ffyne makyng

ffe

[Folio 113b.]

¹¹⁴ Also if that Any Meir or Bayly of Cite Borough or town sell any maner vitaille at retayl during the tyme of his office. That is to sey brede flessh ffyssh wyne or ale

ñ

¹¹⁶ Also yf that Any man bye or sell viij boschellis rasid and no more for the quarter

¹¹³ The last two paragraphs commencing "Also of iij prices," and "Also ye shall" have been crossed out in the *Liber* by a later hand.

¹¹⁴ The two paragraphs commencing "Also if that any Meir" and "Also yf that any man" have been struck through by a later hand.

Also of all man^o of Talow Chaundelers that sellen Talow Candell Salte Otemele Sope and other diuerse chaffer that his weightis be sised and sealed and trewe Beme And that they putt no flo-
teys Among ther talowe ne threde Among Coton in disceite of
people if ye knows any such p^osent hem to vs by name

Also of all tho that occupy ffyshyng in the comyn waters with
Any vnlawfull nettis or Gynnes yfe ye knowe Any p^osent hem
to vs And tho that ffish in the Ryver and fferme it not thei
ought to make ffynes to the Chaumber of the toun p^osent hem
to vs &c

Also of all the Bakers that hafe synes At ther dorres ffor hit
is contrary to the statutes p^osent them to vs &c

Also of all bakers that occupy Any milles for hit is contrary to
the statutes p^osent them to vs &c

³¹⁵ Item of all those victailers that have Jnnes & Signes at their
dores

[Folio 114b.] . . . ³¹⁶ be Assignen to the And thi Maisters And the comyn p^olyte
don . . . And thou shalte do no man^o wrong to thy power so helpe
the god and all seyntis &c

COPIA DE LIBTATIBZ
NORHAMPTON

Uniu^orsis Xpi fidelibz ad quos
p^osentis ire pue^oint Henricus
Humffrey Maior ville Norhamp-
ton et

COPY OF THE LIBERTIES OF
NORTHAMPTON

To all the faithful of Christ
to whom the present letters shall
come Henry Humffrey ³¹⁷ mayor
of the town of Northampton and

³¹⁵ The paragraph commencing "Item of all those" has been written by a later hand.

³¹⁶ This paragraph has been struck through by a later hand. One folio has been cut out of the *Liber* at this place.

³¹⁷ Henry Humffrey was mayor of the town in 1487-8, 1492-3, 1499-1500, and 1508-9.

ville Comburgenses .
 dāo sempiternam Sciatis
 Baxster lator p^{re}sentiu
 burgensis p^{re}dilectus ex-
 p^{re}ti ac gaudere debet
 franchises ac libis con-
 nobis p^{er} dūm Johem
 Regem Anglie concess
 mi sui primo ac p^{er} dūm
 nunc Regem Anglie &
 suos nobis concess
 & allocat Que quidm
 franchises quietancie &
 consuetudines quas huerunt
 London quando meliores
 eas huerunt nobis &
 lib^{er}is nris p^{er} dē dūm
 nondam Regem Anglie
 dē dūm Regem nunc
 suos confirmata &
 existunt. In^{ter} quas con-
 omnes Burgenses ville
 Northampton sint quieti a Theo-
 nagio & Muragio p^{er} totam
 & portus maris Et si
 coloniū vel consuetudinē
 Northampton cepit pre-
 portat Namium apud North
 t vltius voluit dūs Hen-
 ndam Rex Anglie post
 tius & p^{er} cartam suam
 cepit p^{er} se & hered suis
 Burgenses & eo^{rum} hered
 eant libertates p^{re}dictas &
 sup

all the burgesses of the said
 town send Greeting everlasting
 in the Lord Know that Richard
 Baxster bearer of these presents
 is our dear fellow-burgess and
 ought to use and enjoy the lib-
 erties franchises and free customs
 granted to us by the Lord John
 formerly King of England in the
 first year of his reign and by the
 Lord Henry now king of Eng-
 land and his progenitors granted
 confirmed and allowed Which
 liberties franchises quittances
 and free customs which the citi-
 zens of London had when they
 had them better and more freely
 are to us and our predecessors
 by the said Lord John formerly
 King of England and also by the
 said Lord now King and his
 progenitors confirmed and rati-
 fied Amongst which it is con-
 tained that all the burgesses of
 the town of Northampton shall
 be quit of toll lastage and wall-
 tax through the whole of England
 and the seaports and if any one
 shall have taken toll or custom
 from the men of Northampton the
 reeve of Northampton may take
 distress at Northampton And
 further the Lord Henry formerly
 King of England the third after
 the Conquest wished and by his
 charter firmly charged for him-
 self and his heirs that the afore-
 said burgesses and their heirs
 shall for ever have the liberties
 aforesaid and prohibited besides

[Folio 114b.]

sup foriffēura sua ne quis eos
 cont^a concessionem suam p^odēam
 in aliquo distrubet vel molestet
 Et in sup p^o maiore securitate
 libtatū ff^ounchesiaz quietanciaz
 & libaz consuetudines p^odēaz.
 Carte & libtat^o p^odēe de huius-
 modi concessionibz libtatibz ff^oun-
 chesijs quietancijs & libis con-
 suetudinibz de Assensu dnoꝝ
 spūalū & temporalium in pla-
 mento dēi dñi Henrici Regis
 nunc apd Westm^o anno Regni
 sui primo tent existent accept &
 approbat & nunc burgensibz ville
 p^odict ratificat & confirmat ex-
 istunt Quare vobis supplicamus
 quartim^o p^odēum Ricm^o Baxster
 cum ad ptes vras puen^oit cum
 mercandiis suis emend vel ven-
 dend libtatibz ff^ounchesijs quie-
 tancijs & libis consuetudinibz nris
 fauorabili^o vti & gaudere pmit-
 tate non ei neqz suis inferentes
 vel in ferri pmittentes Iniuriam
 molestam seu grauamen In cuius
 rei testimoniū Sigillum officij
 maioratus ville Northampton
 p^osentibz est appentū Dat
 Northampton vicesimo die Mens^o
 Januarij Anno regni Regis Hen-
 rici Septimi post conq^om secundo

under a forfeit any one from
 disturbing or molesting them in
 anything contrary to his con-
 cession aforesaid And besides
 for the greater security of the
 liberties franchises quittances
 and free customs aforesaid the
 charters and liberties aforesaid
 of such concessions liberties
 franchises quittances and free
 customs with the assent of the
 lords spiritual and temporal
 in the parliament of the said
 Lord Henry now King held at
 Westminster in the first year of
 his reign were accepted and
 approved and are now to the
 burgesses of the town aforesaid
 satisfied and confirmed Where-
 fore we beseech you to permit
 the aforesaid Richard Baxster
 when he shall come to your parts
 with his merchandise to buy or
 sell favourably to use and enjoy
 our liberties franchises quittances
 and free customs not putting or
 permitting to be put on him or
 his men any injury harm or
 grievance In testimony whereof
 the seal of the office of mayor of
 the town of Northampton is
 appended to these presents
 Given at Northampton on the
 20th day of the month of January
 [1487] in the second year of the
 reign of King Henry the Seventh
 after the Conquest ²¹⁸

²¹⁸ This document is of the nature of a passport, for burgesses of this town travelling in other towns.

dus dei grā Rex An-
 ancie & dominus Hib-
 s Burgenfib; & toti
 le Notre North Saltm
 d North Comburgensis
 vos in maiorem vrm
 ie p Anno futuro vn-
 igitis sicut p tras vras
 Theſ Baronib; de Scōio
 directas significastis ad
 est admiſ Et pſtitit
 n de bene & fideli se
 officio pſdō put mors
 o vobis mandamus qd
 ſmo tanq^m maiori &
 ſille pſdōe in hijs que
 atum & Custodiam illos
 ntendentes sitis & ref-
 s in forma pſdōa In
 testimoniū has tras nras
 nus patentes Teste Ricō
 rth milite Apud Westm
 &c

Edward by the grace of God
 King of England and France and
 Lord of Ireland to the bailiffs
 burgesses and whole commonalty
 of our town of Northampton
 Greeting Know that your fellow-
 burgess of Northampton whom
 you have unanimously elected to
 be your mayor of the town afore-
 said for the coming year as by
 your letters patent directed to
 the barons of the treasury of
 our Exchequer you have signified
 has been admitted at the same
 Exchequer and has taken the
 oath there concerning his good
 and faithful behaviour in the
 office aforesaid as the practice is
 And therefore we command you
 to be obedient and responsive to
 the same William as being
 mayor and keeper of the town
 aforesaid in these things which
 appertain to those offices of
 mayor and keeper in the form
 aforesaid In testimony whereof
 we have caused these our letters
 to be made patent Witness
 Richard Illyngworth Knight at
 Westminster given on the 9th
 &c 319

[Folio 115a.]

SCIRE FFAÇ SUP RECOG-
NITIONEM ANº 19º H 6th

RICARDUS Wemmes Maior
ville Norht N. & J A eiusdm
ville balti. N. subb suo Saltm
Cum. N. de N xvº die Mens &c
Anno r̄ &c in Guyhalde ville
p̄dēt in pp̄la p̄sona sua coram. N.
ad tunc maiore eiusdm ville re-
cogñon & fatebat' se teneri W.
R Junº in decem lib̄ sterlingoꝝ
bone & legať monete soluend
eidm Wiltmo &c inde peuť px
extunc futuť post dat p̄sent
heť & exenť suis aut suo c̄to
Attorn̄ sub hac conditioe qd si
p̄fat Edmundus &c soluat p̄fat.
W. ut patz &c put in recordo
inde confectus plenius liquet
Precipimus tibi qd sciť facias
dict. E p̄ iiijºr pbos & legať hoies
ville p̄dēe qd sit coram nobis
in Guyhalde ville p̄dēe ad hus-
tenġ ibm tenend. tli die &c ad
ostendend si quid heat vel dic̄e
sciat quar p̄dēus. W. R. execu-
tōem dēaz decem libraꝝ p̄dictaz
virtute

SCIRE FACIAS UPON
RECOGNIZANCE IN THE 19TH
YEAR OF HENRY 6TH

Richard Wemmes³²⁰ mayor
of the town of Northampton N
and J A bailiffs of the same town
to N their under-bailiff Greeting
Whereas N of N on the 15th day
of the month &c in the year of the
reign of King &c in the Guildhall
of the town aforesaid in his own
proper person before N then
mayor of the same town (made)
recognizance and confessed that
he was bound to W R Jun' in ten
pounds sterling of good and
lawful money to be paid to the
same William &c thence then
next coming after the date of
these presents to his heirs and
executors or to his sure attorney
under this condition that if the
aforesaid Edmund &c should pay
to the aforesaid William as it
appears &c as is more fully
clear in the record made in the
matter We charge you that you in-
struct the said E by four approved
and liege men of the town afore-
said that he be present before us
in the Guildhall of the town
aforesaid at the Court of Hus-
tings there to be held on such a
day &c to show if he have any
reason or can say anything why
the aforesaid W R ought not to
have execution of the said ten
pounds aforesaid by virtue of the

³²⁰ Richard Wemmes, or Wemys, was mayor of the town in 1421-2.

recognonis p^odēe v^oi^o Eund N.
de N. her non debeat Et heas
ibi tunc nōia eoꝝ p quos ei scire
fec^ois & hoc p^ocept^o Et hoc nullo
modo omittat^o Dat^o in husteng^o
ibm ten^o die lune &c Anno &c

recognizance aforesaid against
the said N of N And that you
have there and then the names of
those men by whom you in-
structed him And this charge
you must in no manner neglect
Given at the Court of Hustings
there held on Monday &c in the
year &c

Et oporty omnio qd heat
diem A quindenā in quindenā
& non infra &c

And it is altogether right that
he have a day from quinzaine [a
period of 15 days] to quinzaine
and not less &c

Returnū Robti &c subb &c

Return of
Robert &c under-bailiff &c

Sci^o fec^o Virtute istius p^ocept . N
de N. infra nōiat p iij^{or} nōiatos
&c pbos & legales homies de
villa . N. qd sit coram vobis ad
diem & locum in isto p^ocept con-
tent^o ad f^o & re^o put istud p^oc
in se exigit & requirit &c

By virtue of that precept I [Folio 115b.]
have instructed N of N with-
in named by four named &c &
approved and liege men of the
town of Northampton to appear
before you at the day and place
in that precept contained to make
answer and (recognizances) as
that precept demands and requires

Ad quem diem dēus . N. fec^o
defalt &c io p confide^o Cu^o p^o
est ballis &c

On which day the said N
made default &c Therefore by
consideration of the court afore-
said it is to the bailiffs &c

Et postea idem . N. de N. p^o
fait tria breuia de errore cor-
rigende &c & sup certifica^o est
p Cu^o totum record cum p^ocessu
vna cū tertio b^ore & cū returno

And afterwards the same N
of N aforesaid was three briefs
concerning the correction of his
fault &c and further this certifi-
cate is by the whole court re-
corded with the process together
with the third brief and with

eiufdm̄ sub sigillo officij Maioratus ville Norht &c tempe .N. Maioris & ff. N. battioꝝ Anno 77 &c

the return of the same under the seal of the office of mayor of the town of Northampton &c in the time of N mayor and F N bailiffs in the year of the reign of King &c

FFORMA DE JRROTULATŌIBZ
NORHAMPTON

Rotulus memorandoꝝ ville Norhampton imp̄m duratuꝝ de tempe Henrici Humffrey maioris Johi Wattes & Thome Beryngton battioꝝ A feſto ſc̄i Michis Archi Anno 77 Henrici Septimi poſt conq̄m ſc̄do vſq; idm feſtū ſc̄i Michis p vnū Annū integrum
Wiltmo Soffyndale tunc
Cōi Ctico

FORM OF ENROLMENTS
NORTHAMPTON

The Roll of matters of the town of Northampton to be remembered to remain for ever from the time of Henry Humffrey ³²¹ mayor John Wattes & Thomas Beryngton bailiffs from the feast of St Michael the Archangel in the second year of the reign of King Henry the Seventh [1486] after the Conquest until the same feast of St Michael for one whole year

William Sossyndale then
Common Clerk

[Folio 116a.]

FFIERI FFACIAS

Johes Clerke maior ville Norht Johi Wylcokes & Henrico Colman battis libtat ville p^dict⁹ Saltm̄ ex pte dñi Regis vobis & alteri vrm mando qd fieri faciatis seu alt⁹ vrm fieri faciat de bonis & catall Eñudi Swan & Robti Morwode de Norht Goldeūnyth

FIERI FACIAS

John Clerke ³²² Mayor of the town of Northampton to John Wylcokes & Henry Colman bailiffs of the liberty of the town aforesaid Greeting On behalf of our Lord the King to you and either of you I command that you cause to be made or that one of you cause to be made out of the goods and chattels of Edmund Swan and Robert Morwode of Northampton goldsmith

³²¹ Henry Humffrey, or Humphrey, was mayor of the town in 1487-8, 1492-3, 1499-1500, and 1508-9.

³²² John Clerke, or Clarke, was mayor of the town in 1470-1, and 1483-4.

de xvijs xd & p dampnis xiiij
quos Willelms Muscote Gent re-
cupavit vs dñm Johem Edward
p xij &c in pito debi Ac de
ijs quos idm Willelms Muscote
recupavit p xij &c vs dñm Johem
in plenis pite coram nob pñati
maiore & ballis &c in pito tñgñ
Et cum sic leuauerite pñdict xvijs
xd vna cū xiiij p dampn in pito
debi Ac duos solid pñdictos p
dampn in pito tñgñ vt supra
dict est sine dilatore deliberare
faciate seu al vrm deliberat faciat
sub piculo incumbent

Tess me ipo Johes Clerke
decimo nono die mens⁹ Julij
Anno dñi nūc Regis decim

FFIERI FFACIAS

Henricus Humffrey Maior ville
North Johi Wattes & Thome
Beryngton ballis ibm Saltm vobis
& al⁹i vrm mando qd fieri faciat
seu vnus vrm fieri faciat de bonis
& Catallis Johis Adams Inn-
holder manucaptoris Willelmi Mey
mercator de iiij⁹ marcas xvjd in
quibz idm Willelms condemnat^r
in

concerning 17s 10d & for damages
13d which William Muscote
Gent recovered against the said
John Edward by 12 &c in plea
to be due And concerning 2s
which the same William Muscote
recovered by 12 &c against the
said John in full pleas before us
the aforesaid mayor and bailiffs
&c in plea of trespass And when
you shall have so levied the
aforesaid 17s 10d together with
13d for damages in plea to be
due and the two shillings afore-
said for damages in plea of
trespass as is said above without
delay you cause its delivery or
one of you cause its delivery
under peril incumbent

Witness myself John Clerke
the 19th day of the month of
July [1470] in the tenth year of
our Lord now King

FIERI FACIAS

Henry Humffrey²²³ mayor of
the town of Northampton to John
Wattes & Thomas Beryngton
bailiffs there Greeting I com-
mand you and either one of you
that you cause to be made or one
of you cause to be made from
the goods and chattels of John
Adams Innholder the surety of
William Mey mercator concerning
four marks 16d in which the
same William is condemned in

²²³ Henry Humffrey, or Humphrey, was mayor of the town in 1487-8, 1492-3, 1499-1500, and 1508-9.

Curia &c coram nobis p xij &c
v^ol Hugonem Wodefall Bower de
Norht in p^oito debi &c p dampna
. xijd &c sup Judiciū ijs Et cum
sic leuaueritis p^odict^o iij^{as} marcas
xvjd vna cū dampnis sup^odict^o
p^ofat Hugoni sine dilatone delib^oari
faciatis seu vnus vrm delib^oari
faciat sub piculo incumbente &c
Dat^o

Court &c before us by 12 &c
against Hugh Wodefall bowyer
of Northampton in plea to be
due &c for damage 12d &c for
judgement 2s And when you
shall have so levied the aforesaid
four marks 16d together with the
damages aforesaid to the afore-
said Hugh without delay you
cause its delivery or one of you
cause its delivery under peril
incumbent &c Given

[Folio 116b.]

FFIERI FACIAS

HENRICUS HUMFFREY MAIOR
ville Norht Johi Wattes & Thome
Beryngton ballis i^om . Saltm .
vobis & Alt^oi vrm mando qd fieri
faciat^o seu vnu^o vrm fieri faciat
de bonis & Catallis Robti Mose
& Witt Whitcok manucaptors
Johis Pamplion de Pamplion de
Pateshull in p^oito debi de xvs
in quib^o condempnat^o in Curia &c
coram nobis p default^o v^ol^o Witt Buc-
by de Norht &c & p dampnis sup
Judiciū xd Et cum sic leuauerite
p^odict^o xvs vna cum dampnis vt
p^odēm est p^ofat Wittmo sine dila-
tōe delib^oari faciatis seu vnus vrm
delib^oari faciat sub piclo incumbent

FIERI FACIAS

HENRY HUMFFREY²²⁴ MAYOR
of the town of Northampton to
John Wattes & Thomas Beryng-
ton bailiffs there Greeting I
command you and either one of
you that you cause to be made
or one of you cause to be made
from the goods and chattels of
Robert Mose & William Whit-
cok the sureties of John Pamplion
of Pateshull in plea to be due
concerning 15s in which he is
condemned in Court &c before
us by default against William
Bucby of Northampton &c and
for damages upon judgement 10d
And when you shall have so
levied the aforesaid 15s together
with the damages as is aforesaid
to the aforesaid William without
delay you cause its delivery or
one of you cause its delivery
under peril incumbent

²²⁴ Henry Humffrey, or Humphrey, was mayor of the town in 1487-8, 1492-3, 1499-1500, and 1508-9.

Thomas Hunt Johannes Clerk
 Simon Braffeld & Willm Milly
 Coronatores dñi Rege infra lib-
 tatem ville Norhampton Allinat⁹
 Thome Mulso & Willmo Whitcok
 Balfis iñm Saltm Ex pte dñi
 Rege vobis & alt⁹i vrm manda-
 mus qd venir faciat⁹ seu vnus
 vrm veni⁹ faciat coram nobis die
 ven⁹is p⁹x futu⁹r post dat⁹ p⁹fentiũ
 extra portam Aufralem in le
 Brigestrete eiũd ville Ad horam
 nouenam Ante meridiem eiũd
 diei .xxiiij^{or} p⁹bos & legat⁹ hōies
 villa p⁹dēe qd tunc sint iñm ad
 faciend & exequed ea que ex
 pte dñi Regis ex officio nro tunc
 & iñm eis iniungent⁹ Et qd vos
 ipi tunc scitis iñm cū ministris
 vris & cum hōibz p⁹dēis sub picto
 incumbent .Dat⁹ Apud Norhamp-
 loñ p⁹dēam vicesimo die mēis
 Julij Anno regni Regis Henrici
 Septimi post conqñ quinto xiiij
 die Julij

Thomas Hunt John Clerk
 Simon Braffeld & William Milly
 coroners of our Lord the King
 within the liberty of the town
 of Northampton appointed to
 Thomas Mulso & William Whit-
 cok bailiffs there Greeting On
 behalf of our Lord the King we
 command you & each one of
 you that you cause to come
 or one of you cause to come
 before us on Friday next coming
 after the date of these presents
 without the South Gate in the
 Bridge Street of the same town
 at the ninth hour before noon of
 the same day 24 approved and
 liege men of the town aforesaid
 that they be there at that time
 to do and perform those things
 which on behalf of our Lord the
 King from our office then and
 there shall be enjoined upon
 them And that you yourselves
 be there at the same time with
 your officers and with the men
 aforesaid under peril incumbent
 Given at Northampton aforesaid
 on the 20th day of the month of
 July [1490] in the 5th year of the
 reign of King Henry the 7th
 after the Conquest July 13th

Vif⁹ Corpis &c

[Folio 117a.] VENIRE FFACIAS P INQUISITONE
OFFICIJ CLICI MERCATI

John Clerk Maior ville Northampton ac Clicus mercati in eadm villa Johi Wylcokes & Henr Colman ballis libtat⁹ itm Saltm vobis & alteri vrm mando qd venire faciat⁹ seu vnus vrm venire faciat coram me p⁹fat⁹ maior & clico m⁹cati in Guyhalde ville p⁹dict die Mercurij p⁹ ante festm S⁹ci Thome Apli p⁹ futu⁹ xxiiij^{or} probos legat hoies ville p⁹d⁹ qd tunc sint itm ad faciend et exequend ea que ad Officiu Clici m⁹cati p⁹d⁹ in hac pte tunc itm eis iniungent^r Et hoc nullo modo omittat⁹ seu vnus vrm non omitat sub piclo incumbent Dat⁹ apd Northampton xvij^o die Decemb^r Anno r⁹ E iiij^a decimo

Ballis p noia noia sic Respondent

Executio istius pcepti paty in quod panell huic pcepti Annex &c

View of Body &c

VENIRE FACIAS FOR
INQUISITION OF THE OFFICE OF
CLERK OF THE MARKET

John Clerk³²⁵ mayor of the town of Northampton and clerk of the market in the same town to John Wylcokes & Henry Colman bailiffs of the liberty there Greeting I command you and either one of you that you cause to come or one of you cause to come before me the aforesaid mayor and clerk of the market in the Guildhall of the town aforesaid on Wednesday next before the feast of St Thomas the Apostle [21st December] next coming 24 approved and liege men of the town aforesaid that they be then and there to do and perform those things which belonging to the office of clerk of the market aforesaid in this matter then and there shall be enjoined upon them And this in no manner must you neglect or one of you must neglect under peril incumbent Given at Northampton the 17th day of December [1470] in the 10th year of the reign of King Edward the 4th

They thus answer to the bailiffs by names as called

The execution of this precept is made clear in the panel annexed to this precept &c

³²⁵ John Clerk, or Clarke, was mayor of the town in 1470-1, and 1483-4

Henricus Humffrey maior ville
Norhampton & Clucus mercati
infra libtatem pdcam Thome
Beryngton & Johi Wattes baptis
ibm Saltm ex pte dñi Regis
vobis & alii vrm mando qd ve-
nire faciat coram me pstat maior
& Cluco mercati in Guyhalda
ville pdce die lune px futuŕ
post dat pŕentiũ xxiiij^{re} probos &
legal hōies eiuidm ville Qd tunc
sint ibm ad faciend et exequend
ea que ad offiẽm pdcũ ex pte
dñi Regis tunc & ibm eis iniun-
gent Et hoc nullo modo omittatis
seu vnus vrm non omittat Et qd
vos ipi tunc icitis ibm sub piculo
incumbent Dat apd Norhampton
pdcam in festo Scti Laurencij mris
Anno r̄ Henrici septimi post
conq̃m secundo

Henry Humffrey³²⁶ mayor of
the town of Northampton and
clerk of the market within the
liberty aforesaid to Thomas
Beryngton & John Wattes bailiffs
there Greeting On behalf of our
Lord the King I command you
and each one of you that you
cause to come or one of you
cause to come before me the
aforesaid mayor and clerk of
the market in the Guildhall of
the town aforesaid on Monday
next coming after the date of
these presents 24 approved and
liege men of the same town that
they be then and there to do
and perform those things which
belonging to the office aforesaid
on behalf of our Lord the King
then and there shall be enjoined
upon them And this in no
manner must you neglect or one
of you must neglect And that
you yourselves be there at that
time under penalty incumbent
Given at Northampton aforesaid
on the feast of St Laurence
the Martyr [10th August 1487]
in the 2nd year of the reign of
King Henry the 7th after the
Conquest

VENIR FFACIAS

Henricus Humffrey Maior ville
Norhampton Thome Beryngton
& Johi

VENIRE FACIAS

[Folio 117b.]

Henry Humffrey³²⁶ mayor of
the town of Northampton to
Thomas Beryngton and John

³²⁶ Henry Humffrey, or Humphrey, was mayor of the town in 1487-8, 1492-3, 1499-1500, and 1508-9.

Wattes ballis ibm Saltm Ex pte
 dñi Regis vobis & alii vrm
 mando qd venire faciatis seu vnus
 vrm venir faciat coram nobis in
 Guyhald ville p'dicte die Ven'is
 p' futu' post dat p'sentm xxiiij^{or}
 p'bos & legat hōies ville p'dce
 in quotit quartio eiusdm ville
 p'cipiend. Qd tunc sint ibm ad
 faciend et exequend ea que ex
 pte dñi Regis eis iniungentur
 Et hoc nullo modo omittatis seu
 vnus vrm non omittat Et qd vos
 ipi tunc scitis ibm sub pena in
 cumbent Da' apud Northampton
 p'dcam in festo S'ci Andree Appli
 Anno R Henrici septmi post
 conq'm s'cdo &c

Wattes bailiffs there Greeting
 On behalf of our Lord the King
 I command you and each one of
 you that you cause to come or
 one of you cause to come before
 us in the Guildhall of the town
 aforesaid on Friday next coming
 after the date of these presents
 24 approved and liege men of the
 town aforesaid in some quarter
 of the same town to be decreed
 That they be then and there to
 do and perform those things
 which on behalf of our said Lord
 the King shall be enjoined upon
 them And this in no manner
 must you neglect or one of you
 must neglect And that you
 yourselves be there at the same
 time under penalty incumbent
 Given at Northampton aforesaid
 on the feast of St Andrew the
 Apostle [30th November 1480
 in the 2nd year of the reign of
 King Henry the 7th after the
 Conquest &c

VENIR FFACIAS

A B & J A C Coronat^o dñi
 Regis &c R G & B A ballis ville
 N. Saltm vobis mandamus ex pte
 dñi Regis qd venir faciatis coram
 nobis xxiiij^{or} p'bos & legat hōies
 de N ad vidend corpus &c apud
 N. p'dictam ibm interfect^o vel de-
 merfum &c Jta qd possunt dicere
 veredictū coram nobis quis vel

VENIRE FACIAS

A B & J A C coroners of our
 Lord the King &c to R G & B A
 bailiffs of the town of North-
 ampton Greeting We command
 you on behalf of our Lord the
 King that you cause to come
 before us 24 approved & liege
 men of Northampton to view the
 body & cat Northampton aforesaid
 there killed or drowned &c So
 that they may be able to deliver
 a verdict before us who was or

uerunt causa mortę dictę &c
nabilit⁹ diem sibi p⁹fixam Et
non omittatis seu vnus vrm
omittat sub piclo incumbent
decimo die mensis Nouemb^r
Anno regni Regis Henrici
post conquestū secundo &c

who were the cause of the death
of the said &c on a reasonable
day fixed for them And this you
must not neglect or one of you
must not neglect under peril
incumbent Given on the 10th
day of the month of November
[1486] &c in the second year of
the reign of King Henry the 7th
after the Conquest &c

At the assent of Phelipp Eūard William V⁹isfe Geffrey [Folio 118a.]
ston coroners of the same towne Adam Cotesbroke William
Thomas Staunford Water Pateshall William Euerard Adam
Adam Garlikmonger Henry Roger John Stratton Wal⁹ Caye
ert Baker and William Sotell to geder with the Commū After
e forseide Towne are assented in the chirche of Seint Gyle
orhamptō the Sonenday [5th October 1341] next afore the
f Seint Dionis in the yere of the regnne of kyng Edward
hyrde aftir the conquest fifteneeth that eūy man that is born
e forseide town and his fadir hath ben at lot and Scotte and
mune charge of the forseide towne. Anon as he wille chaffren
he by fore the maire and Coroners in pleyn plees of the
de towne And make his othe in sūche man⁹e that he shall
feithfull and trewe to oure lorde the kynge and to his
s And iustifiable to maire and Bailliffes and the ffraunches and
v⁹sages of the forseide towne to his power mayntene as moſte
ly to hym shall be shewed at the makynge of his othe and
he paie the fees to the Clerke and Seriaunte of olde tyme
that is to wite .iiij^d to the Clerke and .ij^d to the s⁹geaunt
e maire or to the towⁿ fro thenns forwarde And allso that
y of the condycion aforeide or any other chaffar or he haue
his othe aforeseide. lese his chaffar to the profite of the towne
seide. And allso the forsaide maire and the Cōminalte be
ide ben assented that if any man of the fraunchise of the
de towne Emplede other in the Courte of Norhamptōn be
daunt of the fraunchise or non in plee of dette of xij^d or
He that is empledid may doo his lawe bi his owne honde.
at he that shall doo his lawe be of good fame. And also
ame v⁹sage be holden in plee of disfonament. So that the

[Folio 118b.]

pleyntye be of the fraunchise be the defendaunt duufayn or forenne And also the forsaide mayre and Cōminalte ben assented that in the plees of dette or of trespass that toucheth disportionment that the pleyntife after the lawe waged haue but on afoynes and in affermyng of theise poyntes a bove seide The Cōmoun seall of the town of Norhampton is putte for to lasten at all dayes

SACR̄M RECORDATORIS

[THE OATH OF THE RECORDER.]

[Folio 119a.]

Ye shall yeve good and true Councell to the Maire of Northampton and Bailliffy and ther mynysters of the same that now ben and to ther Successours and the lybertees ffraunches ffree customes and viages of the same Town .ye shall maynteyn and susteyn . And be indyfferent be twene party and party in every mater and Cause meved or to be meved within the Courte of the same . Where thorow Ryght Jugement may procede to your connyng and power So god you helpe and all Seyntys and be this boke &c

SACR̄M CORNATOX Dñi REGIS

[THE OATH OF THE CORONER OF OUR LORD THE KING.]

Ye shall well and truely s^{ue} the kyng oure souaigne lorde in thoffice of Crouner within this toun and ffranchies of the same . And truely kepe the pleese of the Croune that to the kyng longeth within this toun and ffraunchies . And to see that the people of the toun ryghtvyfly be entreted Os well the pore as the Ryche . Os the Charter of kyng John witnessith . Also ye shall goo to men slayne or drowned Or of sodeyn deth . Or murderynge in howses . And to tresoure founde . And truely kepe the plees longynge to the Croun And the names of them that be gylty . ye shall do to be wryten in the Crouner Rolle . And truely certyfy the kyng or to his Councell . when ye be lawfully requyred theise Articlez and other that to the offyce longeth ye shall to your konnyng And power truely execute And kepe soo helpe you god and all seyntis And bi this boke &c

SACRM XXIII^{re} COMBURGENZ

[Folio 129b.]

[THE OATH OF THE COMPANY OF TWENTY-FOUR.]

Ye schall jese good and trew Councell to your Meire all this yere ensuyng as ofte tyme as yt nedith and whan ye be required to youre Connyng and power so helpe me god & all seynt

SACRM P HÖIE ADMISS IN LIBERTATEM

[THE OATH FOR A MAN ADMITTED TO THE LIBERTY.]

J shall be ffeithfull and lawfull to oure lorde the kynge and to his ayres . And Justifiable to meire & Bailliff; of this towne that now be hath be or shalbe . And the fredoms and viages of the saide toun to my power maynteyn and susteyn And the Councell of the same well & treuly hele & kepe so helpe me god and all seyntis

SACRM DECENAR

[THE OATH OF THE TITHING-MAN.]

Ye shall well & truly enquire and p̄sent all man[?] of fraies blodeshedis daggers swyrdis billis Glessis and all other man[?] wepons And stavis drawn Agayne the pease . And of tachmentis broken from the Bailliffis or ther mynysters And of all man[?] of herborowers Ageynst the sylle And of all homefokyns And herkeners under mennys wyndowes And of all comyn chiders and comyn nyght walkers and of all comyn Sondag Dyners . ³²⁷ (all brekefast kepers in the tyme of dyvine s^uice & in the time of s^umons And all mann[?] of p̄ones that by vitales as egge butter and chese and all other vitales affore they come into the m[?]ket assigned therfore and that you shall present all soche p̄ones so doing) Also ye shall enquire and present in tyme of leetis And at all tymes ye shall make true enqueraunce and true p̄sentacoñ of thei; Articles And all other that longen to thoffice And lett not for love mede nor promyie that ye owe to ony p̄one nor other wyie doo than Right wyll to your Conscience &c ³²⁷ (and ther ale to be settlyd to cōteyn xij gallons off clere ale accordinge to the mayors crye & that they kepe this present all ale howiys and typlynge

[Folio 130a.]

³²⁷ These words have been added to this ordinance in a later hand.

howfys wēh be not bownd by Recognisaunce according to the kinges act of parlyment therfor made and to present all evyll rule keepers as playe at dice card &c bowllē & other unlawful games Of all blocke and muckhille in the stretes to annoynace And that you go to see that all bruares do brue good and sufficient & holsome ale for mans body & that their tobēs be gayne & y^t they sell w^t no measure but it be enſealed)

SACR̄M PISTORUM

[THE OATH OF BAKERS.]

Ye shall well and truly serfe this toun in your Crafte of all the poyntes pteyng to the same . ffor all this yere ensuyng And kepe your assise in bakynge as ye shall be charged be your Meire after the forme and statute that some tyme was made ordeyned at Wynchestur bi the Councell of the Realme and duely to kepe your assise that shall be Assigned to you be youre Maisters the next day of plees After the market holden too helpe you god and all seyntis &c

SACR̄M MAGISTRI ARTIS PISTORUM

[THE OATH OF A MASTER OF THE BAKERS' CRAFT.]

[Folio 120b.] Ye shall truly enſerch and ouſee all maner of poyntis to youre Crafte longyng & dependyng . That is to ſey that ye shall see that euery baker within this town dwellyng shall bake all this yere ensuyng good and sufficiant paffe of all man^r of greynys well wrought and of good bultell with all other poyntes dependyng to the same Crafte. And if ye fynde any Man doo the contrary in any poynte thereof that then shall ye pvtē you in deuoure to the amendment of the same deffaute . And forthwith make relacon and certyfy the Meire of any ſuche pīone so offendyng and trespassyng in this be halfe . Noo thing therof to concele for loſe mede nor pmyſe otherwiſe than right wyll . And duely to take your Assise of the Meire the next daye of the plees after the market holden so helpe you god & all seyntis &c

SACR̄M CISSOR

[THE OATH OF TAILORS.]

Ye shall duely and truly serche and ouerſee all man^r of poyntes to Tailloours Crafte pteynyng . And if ye fynde any trespassoure trespassē or defaute in the seide Crafte Then ye shall

that trespassour for his trespass and deffautes dewly and truely and indifferently bi the Auctorite of youre Ordinaunce correcte and punyssh Savyng Alonly that if it happyn contrauersy or debate pcially among you here after to fall that contrauersy or debate the punysshment ther of to be reserued to the meire Allso ye shall p'sent and make leuewe of all maner p'sones that be Abled in your tyme too sett vp and occupie your occupation os maister . And them s'tifie to the Meire after the constitution of your Crafte . And this ye shall nott lett too doo for lose ffauour mede nor promyse that ye haue made to any p'sone ne for hate malice or evyll wyll to any p'sone doo other than conciens wyll so helpe you god and all seyntis & be this boke &c

[Folio 121a.]

SACR̃M CARNIFICIUM & PISCERUM

[THE OATH OF BUTCHERS AND FISHERS.]

Ye shall duely and truely enserche and oversee all man⁹ poyntes dependyng to your Crafte called that no mane-bocher or ffyssher sell within this toun any maner corrupte flessh or ffissh the whiche is not holsum to mannys body And contrary to the statute therof made bi Auctorite of pliaiment . And when ye fynde any suche trespass or defaute, ye shall the name of the same trespassour fforth with sertifie the Meire . And all suche flessh or ffyssh so founde defectife ye shall kepe vnto the Meire hafe therof A sight and direcion . Allso ye shall truely enserche that euy fforeyn Bocher that sell flessh in the kytestallis bryng with hym all such hydes and Talowe as be longed to all suche flessh as thei or any of theym bryng with theym to sell . And if ye fynde any doo the contrari ye shall certifie the Meire therof fforth with And this ye shall nott lett to doo for mede promyse lose nor ffauour that ye owe to any p'sone or p'sones ne for malice ne evill will other doo then Conciens will . so helpe you god and all seyntis &c

[Folio 121b.]

SACR̃M ALLUTAR CORASSATOR

[THE OATHS OF SHOEMAKERS AND CORDWAINERS.]

Ye shall duely and truely enserch and ouersee all maner poyntes longyng to Cordwyn⁹ crafte ³⁹⁸ (Corio^r crafte and Barkers crafte) . ffirste no man⁹ cordwyn⁹ sell within this town botis nor shois

³⁹⁸ The words "Coriour crafte and Barkers crafte," have been ruled in the *Liber*.

but of good & sufficiant stufte ³²⁹ (According to the statute And) that no corio^r selle any leddur but if it be sufficiantly curried ³²⁹ (And thorowe tannyd and) curried with sufficiant stufte. And that it be good & able And that no Tanner within this town nor Countre sell within this toun any maner leddur but if it be sufficiantli tanned ³²⁹ (accordyng to the statute And that noo barker hafe any ffatte standyng in her Tannhillis for hit is contrary to the statute and grete discerte to the kynge liege people) And if ye fynde any of those Artificers doo the contrary in any of theise poyntes ye shall the same leddur so vnufficiantly wrought kepe in your Awarde and forthwith make relacion to the Meire the names of hym or them that soo trespassed and offended in theise poyntes or any of theym. And this ye shull not lette to doo [for lose] mede nor promyse nor for your synguler Av-
[auntage] for wrath hate or evill will doo to any pson [other than] conience wyll Soo god you helpe and all [seyntis] &
³³⁰ (& contentes of this booke)

[Folio 122a.]

SACRM ARTIS CANDELAR CERE

[THE OATH FOR THE CRAFT OF TORCHMAKERS.]

Ye shull duely and truely serche and enquire all the circute of this fraunchies that maner of pson within this toun sell or putt to sale any torche or torchett or other thing disceitfully made in youre Occupacion. Other than is made of lawfull ittie. Accordyng to the ordinaunce bi the Councell of this toun therof made and entealed Accordyng to the seide ordinaunce. And yf ye fynde any thyng ffawty ye shall that thing kepe And certifie the Meire ther of And the name of hym or theym that souche puttith to sale And no thyng therof conceale but true serche and p^resentacon in this be halfe make So helpe me god and all seyntis and be this boke &c

[Folio 122b.]

SACRM FFULLONU TEXTOR

[THE OATH OF THE FULLERS.]

Ye shall in your Crafte called .N. duely and truely serche Amongst the Artificers of the same Crafte that thei and eueryhone

³²⁹ The following words have been ruled in the *Liber*:—"According to the statute And," "And thorowe tannyd and," "accordyng to the statute" "And that noo barker hafe any ffatte standyng in her Tannhillis for hit is contray" "to the statute and grete discerte to the kyngs liege people."

³³⁰ The words "contentes of this booke" have been written in a later hand

of [theym] doo truely her warkemanhippe in their Occup[acion] with all man⁹ of poyntes to the same occupacion p[teynnyng] And if ye fynde eny of the seide Artificers defectife or trespassyng contrari in any poynte or Article of the statute and ordinaunce ther of made. That than ye shall p[re]sent hym or theym to the Meire As often as thei so be founde offeending what he trespassith withoute Any conceilment in any parte ther of So helpe me god and all seyntis &c

SACR̄M SCRUTAT TEXTOR

[THE OATH OF THE SEARCHER OF TEXTILES.]

Ye shall duly and truely serche eūy weke as often as hit nedith eūyche housholder of your occupacion within the ffrauncheis of this toun. That thei weiffe no man⁹ of cloth within this Toun or ffrauncheis that shalbe puttoo sale. But suche as is sufficient and true draparry And that the warpe and the wofe be like to once colour. And sufficient stufte for the lenth and brede that shall be leide ffor. And if ye fynde any clothe clothes or dagouns that shalbe putto sale that is nott sufficient Coloure stufte and warkemanshipe in any poynte that longeth to the Occupacion. Then ye shall forthwith geve relacion to the Meire the names of the owner. and of the warkeman of such clothe clothes or dagouns withoute any lenger conceiling the same vpon the payne that is ordeyned therof bi Acte of Assemble be admytted bi Assent of all the town ye shall nott lett this to doo for lose or promyse that ye owe to doo So helpe you god and all seyntes & be this &c

[Folio 123a.]

SACR̄M CONSTABUL

[THE OATH OF THE CONSTABLE.]

Ye shall well and truely serve the kyng our soūayne lorde in the office of Constableshepe within the presynkete of the .N. quarter of this toun. In tyme of wache. ye shall geve dewe commandement and charge in the kyng be halfe to the wachemen suche as shalbe somoned bi the s[er]iaunt of the quarter too A pere Afore you. That thei kepe and make due wache and true from the tyme of your charge giffyng vnto the sonne be vpon the morow And that thei kepe ther owne quarter. And come intoo none other tyll thei be requyred of any other wache. Or but ony horne blowe ony ffray made or owte crye parell of ffyre or Children And all suche other. Also that thei be hafe them in godely wise

[Folio 123b.]

in kepyng of theire wache itylly goyng withoute noyse or lowde speche. Allso if any straunge man or woman happen to come to this toun bi nyghtis tyme. That then thei honestly to examoun such man or woman. And if thei be not suspeciousse bryng hem till An Jnne. And if thei be founde suspeciousse or vntrewe then that thei be brought to warde vnto the Maire and bailliffe have hadde examynacion of them Allso ye shall in youre pñon to your myght and power at all tymes be redy to Assiste Maire bailliffe and other ther mynysters in execucion or doyng theire office if nede require And resiste and denounce all euell doers yf ye knowe them Theise poyntes and Articles and all other to youre office of Constableshepe Appteynyng ye shall be redy. And doo your deuoure to youre myght and power so helpe you god & holydome & be this boke &c

[Folio 124a.]

ABIURATIO LATRONUM JURE UT PATET
[THE OATH OF ROBBERS ABJURING THE KINGDOM.]

Hco audis dñe Coronator qd ego . N . de tli loco sum latro bideniū vl alicui^s alius aial vel omicidia vni^s vel plurimū & felonus dñi Regis Angl & mta mala & latrocinia vl hui^s in tñam suam teci abiuro tam dñi Regis H Angl & qd debeo festinar me vñ^o portum . N . &c q^a dedisti mihi & qd non debeam deir de alia via & si faciam volo qd sum captus sicut lat^r & felons dñi Regis & qd ad portu pdictam queram diligenti tñitu & non expectabo illuc fluxum & vnū refluxum si tñsitum here poſo & nisi tanto ipacio here poſo tñsitum ibo in quoliby die in mari usq; genua mea temptans tñsire & nisi hoc poſo infra xl dies continues mittam me itum ad eccliam sicut latro & felonus dñi Regis sic me adiuuet deus ³⁸¹

Thus here t^o Crouner that J R O am a ffeloun of our lorde the kyng. And ffelony J haue done like as J haue confesid to you &c Wherefore J for swere the Realme of Englund. And that J shall hye me to the porte of Newecastell vppon tyne. the whiche ye haue geuen me. And J shall not goo oute of the high weye And yf J doo J will that J betakyn as a ffeloun of our seide lorde the kyng. And att the seide porte J shall aske passage. And J shall not Abyde there but Afflode and a Ebbe if J may haue passage. And if J may nott hafe passage. J shall euy day goo in

³⁸¹ The translation following this on the same folio is written by a later hand.

see vnto my knees Askyng passage. And if J may nott
in .xl. dayes next. J shall Admitte me to the Chyrche
as a ffeloun of our seide lorde the kyng soo helpe me
All Seyntys &c

[GRANT OF A RENT CHARGE.]

IBUS Xpi fidelib; Ad
esens Scriptum indenta-
tenerit Wiltms Benett
e Bukbroke in com Norht
man et Wiltms Benet
heres meus Saltm in dno
nam Noueritis nos Wiltm
m vnanimi assensu & con-
cedisse concessisse & hoc
Scripto aro indentato
asse Johanni Marchall ju-
Norhampton fuller vnum
em redditum quatuor
ne & legalis monete Ang-
d tenend & Annuatim
end dicti Annualem red-
quatuor solid pfa Johanni
ll executi & assigni suis
confectionis pntm viq;
terminiquindecim Annoz
px sequi & plenarie com-
oluend Annuatim durante
pdict dicti annualem red-
fa Johi executi vel assigni
festo om Scto p equales
es Et si contingat dicti
em redditu quatuor soli-
bro fore in pti vel in toto
tu pdem per octo dies
ci Wiltms &

TO ALL the faithful of Christ
to whom the present writing in-
dented shall come William Benett
senior of Bukbroke [Bugbrook]
in the county of Northampton hus-
bandman and William Benet my
son and heir send greeting ever-
lasting in the Lord You must know
that we William and Willjam
with one assent and consent have
given granted and by this present
writing of ours indented have
confirmed to John Marchall ju-
nior of Northampton fuller one
annual rent of four shillings of
good and lawful money of Eng-
land to have and to hold and
annually to receive the said
annual rent of four shillings
to the aforesaid John Marchall his
executors and assigns from the
day of the completion of these
presents to the end of the term
of fifteen years thence next fol-
lowing and fully to be completed
To pay annually during the term
aforesaid the said annual rent to
the aforesaid John his executors
or assigns on the feast of All
Saints by equal portions And if
it happen that the said annual
rent of four shillings shall be in
arrear in part or in whole after
the feast aforesaid for eight days
then the aforesaid William and

(Folio 124b.)

Witms p se & hered suis volunt
& p ptes concedunt qd bene
licebit pfato Johanni Marchall
execut & assign suis in Clauto
nro ad finem ville de Bukbroke
pdict iacent ex parte Oriental
eiusdm ville intrare & distringere
districtiones qz sic cap licite as-
portare abducere & penes se
retinere quousq de Annual red-
ditu pdeo & eius arreragijs si
que sunt eis plenaris sunt satis-
fact & polut Et nos vero pdei
Witms & Witms & hered nri
dem Annualet redditum quatuor
solidoz pfato Johanni Marchall
execut & assign suis contra omnes
gentes warantijabimus & de-
fendemus durante termino pre-
deoz quindecim Annoz p ptes
Et pteria posuimus pfatum Joem
Marchall in plena & pacifica pos-
sessione & seifina dict Annual
reddi per deliberatōem quatuor
denarioz Argenti quos ei deliber-
auims die Dat pntiū nomine
possessionis & seifine eiusdem in
ptem solutonis dict Annual red-
ditus Ac insup cum pdei Witms
Benet senior & Witms Benet
filius & heres meus p Scriptum
nrm obligatoriū cuius dat est die
confectionis pntium teneamur
& obligamr & vterq nrm

[Folio 129a.]

William for themselves and their
heirs are willing and by these
presents concede that it shall be
quite lawful for the aforesaid John
Marchall his executors and assigns
to enter in our close at the end of
the town of Bukbrook [Bug-
brook] aforesaid lying on the
east part of the said town and to
make distrain and the distrains
so taken lawfully to carry and
take away and retain in their
own custody until satisfaction
and payment shall have been
fully made to them concerning
the annual rent aforesaid and
its arrears if any And we indeed
the aforesaid William and Wil-
liam and our heirs the said an-
nual rent of four shillings to the
aforesaid John Marchall his ex-
ecutors and assigns against all
people will guarantee and defend
during the term of fifteen years
aforesaid by these presents And
besides we have put the aforesaid
John Marchall in full and peace-
ful possession and seisin of the
said annual rent by the delivery
of four pennies of silver which
we have delivered to him on the
day of the date of these presents
in the name of the said pos-
session and seisin in part pay-
ment of the said annual rent And
further whereas the aforesaid
William Benet Senior and Wil-
liam Benet my son and heir by
our writing obligatory whose
date is on the day of the com-

to & in solid teneam'
 m' p'fato Johi in decem
 me & legalis monete
 soluend infesto Oñi Sctoꝝ
 post dat' p'sentm put in
 ipso obligatorio plenius
 Tamen p'dcūs Jobes
 p se execut & assign
 & p p'sentes concedit q'
 & pacifice deant teneant
 & possideant dict' annuat
 quatuor solid annuatim
 p'dict' durante termino
 si sufficiens districi in
 as p reddit' p'dict inuent
 ens quociens necesse fuit
 termino p'dco q' tunc
 scriptum obligatorium p
 tur Alioquin in oñi suo
 let & effcū In cuius rei
 uni parte istoꝝ Scriptoꝝ
 nos pen p'fatos Willm
 m remanentem p'dcūs
 Marchall Sigillum suū
 Et alter vero pti istoꝝ
 indental' penes prefatum
 Marchall remanent' Nos
 Willms & Willms Sigilla
 posuimus dat' vicesimo
 die mensis Martij

pletion of the presents are held
 and bound and each of us by
 himself is held and bound for
 the entire sum to the aforesaid
 John in ten pounds of good and
 lawful money of England to be
 paid on the feast of All Saints
 next coming after the date of the
 presents as in the same writing
 obligatory more fully appears
 But yet the aforesaid John
 Marchall for himself his executors
 and assigns is willing and by
 these presents concedes that if
 they shall well and peaceably
 have hold enjoy and possess the
 said annual rent of four shillings
 every year at the feast aforesaid
 during the term aforesaid or if
 sufficient distrain shall have
 been found in the said close for
 the rent aforesaid as often as
 shall be necessary during the
 term aforesaid that then the
 aforesaid writing obligatory shall
 be held null and void otherwise
 it must stand in all its force and
 effect In testimony whereof to
 one part of these writings in-
 dented remaining in the custody
 of us the aforesaid William
 and William the aforesaid John
 Marchall has put his seal and
 to the other part of these writ-
 ings indented remaining in the
 custody of the aforesaid John
 Marchall We the aforesaid
 William and William have put
 our seals Given on the 24th
 day of the month of March

Anno Regni Regis Henrici [1487] in the 2nd year of the
septimi post conquestum secundo reign of King Henry the 7th
after the Conquest

[ORDINANCE MADE IN LONDON FOR INN KEEPERS AND BAKERS.]

[Folio 135b.]

Jnt^{to} a o in libro G ffol cxxxⁱⁱ 329

It is ordeigned by Adam of Bury Maire and Alderman of the
Citee of London that non hostiller nor herberiou^r owith to make
no man^o of brede in their houses to selle to their gestys but they
shall by their brede for their gestys and for their hories of the
Comon Bakers of the Cytee. So that euy bred be merked w^t the
marke of the Baker of the whiche the brede was bought. So
that euy p^one may knowe that the brede be of right Alike and
of verry value that it owyth to be. And than may the hostyllers
and herbiours Avowe the sale of heir brede by the merke of the
baker. And yf any brede be founde in the houses of the hostyl-
lers and herbiours to selle In any man^o then in the forme Afore-
seide. That than they shall haue the same penaunce that the
baker shall haue yf they at any tyme shalbe therof Atteynt &c

[LEASE OF SAINT LEONARD'S HOSPITAL.]

[Folio 186a.]

INT̄ VILLA ET JOHEZ PECK
PRO S̄CI LEONARDI HOSPITL

BETWEEN THE TOWN AND
JOHN PECK FOR THE HOSPITAL
OF ST LEONARD³²⁹

Hec indentura facta in^l Tho-
mam Hunt Maiorem ville Nor^hit
& viginti quatuor Comburchenses
eiusd^m ville sibi Jura^l ex pte
vna et Jo^hem Pecke de Kynges-
thorp iux^a Nor^hit Gent ex pte

This indenture made be-
tween Thomas Hunt³³⁴ mayor of
the town of Northampton and the
24 sworn burgesses of the same
town of the one part and John
Peck of Kingsthorpe near North-
ampton Gent of the other part

³²⁹ This ordinance is preserved amongst the muniments of the City of London, and is referred to on folio 319B of the *Liber Albus* (compiled 1419) as .—"Item
"that no Hosteler shall make any bread, but shall buy it of the Bakers—G 135"
The Liber Albus, by H. T. Riley, 1861.

³³⁰ The Hospital of St. Leonard was situated in the hamlet of East Cotton, and
parish of Hardingston, and was said to have been founded by William the Conqueror,
for the maintenance of a master and leprous brethren and sisters.

³³⁴ Thomas Hunt was mayor of the town in 1456-7, 1465-6, 1473-4, and 1481-2.
He was one of the representatives at the parliament held 28th Henry VI.

testatur qd p̄dci Maior &
argentes sui concesserunt
erunt & diuiserunt p̄fat
hospitale suum S̄ci Leon-
n Cotoñ iuxta Norht cū
y terris tēn redditibz
pascuis pastur ac om̄ibz
comoditatibz pficius & p̄tīn
uibuscumq; eidm̄ hospitali
modo p̄tinent̄ seu con-
t in Com̄ p̄dict seu alibi
i Capella S̄ci Thome sup
a Australem ville Norht
& p̄tīn suis hēnd & tenend
Johi ad īminum vite tūe
ndo & soluendo inde an-
t durante īmino p̄dco Ca-
p Cantarie eiuidm̄ hosp̄tis
tempe fuit p̄ maiorem ville
p̄ tempe existent & suos
argentes loci ordinat̄ p̄sen-
cto marcas ad quatuor
minos vsuales vel Jnueniend
Capellano victum suum ut
o & potu ac soluendo eidm̄
ano quatuor marcas & tres
anni Coloris ratonabit p̄

Necnon deliband eidm̄
o mansum infra hospitale
p̄ Capell̄ idm̄ existent p̄-
ordinat̄ Et idm̄ Johes
tabit om̄ia on̄a ordinaria

witnesseth that the aforesaid
mayor and his burgesses have
granted delivered and divided to
the aforesaid John their hospital of
St Leonard in Coton [Cotton] near
Northampton with all its lands and
tenements rents fields meadows
pastures and all other commodi-
ties profits and appurtenances
whatsoever to the same hospital
in any manner pertaining or
belonging in the county aforesaid
or elsewhere together with the
chapel of St Thomas on the
South bridge of the town of
Northampton aforesaid and its
appurtenances To have and to
hold to the same John for the
term of his life by rendering and
paying from thence every year
during the term aforesaid to the
chaplain of the Chantry of the
same hospital for the time being
to be presented by the mayor of
the town aforesaid for the time
being and his burgesses in the
ordinary place eight marks at
the four usual periods of the year
or by finding for the same chap-
lain his victuals both food and
drink and by paying to the
same chaplain four marks and
three yards of cloth of decent
colour in the year also by de-
livering to the same chaplain
the dwelling within the hospital
aforesaid before time assigned
for the chaplain there being
And the same John will take
upon himself all burdens ordinary

& extra ordinaria reddit^u & s^{er}uicia
eidem hospitti qualic^{um}q; incum-
bentia durante t^{er}mino p^{re}notato
Et etiam d^{omi}nus Johes soluet
Annuatim qualib; septimano
t^{er}mino p^{re}d^{omi}no cuidam leproso vel
leprose qui vel que p^{er} tempe
fuit it^{em} quinq; denar^{um} & semel
p^{er} annu^m duas p^{ar}tes baconis
& v^{er}um Butellum farine Aueaz.
Et d^{omi}nus Johes omnia domos
[Folio 126b.] & edificia ac ecc^{lesi}am dicti
hospit^{is} manutenebit repabit &
sustentabit b^en^e & competent^{er} sum-
tib; suis p^{ro}p^{ri}is & expen^{sa} dur^{ante}
termino p^{re}d^{omi}no Et ea in bono statu
in fine t^{er}mini sui dimittet Et
p^{re}fat^{us} Johes nullam arborem it^{em}
p^{er}sternet nisi p^{er} sup^{er}vis^{or} Maioris
ville Norht p^{re}d^{omi}ne p^{er} tempe exist^{ent}
p^{er} rep^{ar}at^{io}ne & necessarijs tang^{en}t^{ur}
ecc^{lesi}e siue domib; hospitt^{is} p^{re}d^{omi}ni
aut h^usbondrie eiusdem nec aliqua
terras seu tenementa eiusdem
hospitt^{is} Alicui alij ultra statum
siue t^{er}minum suum p^{re}d^{omi}num Absq;
licencia dicti maior^{is} & viginti
quatuor Comb^{ur}gensium suoz aut
eoz successoz dimittet P^{ro}viso
semp^{er} qd si d^{omi}nus Johes omnia
domos & edificia ac ecc^{lesi}am
dei hospitt^{is} infra vn^{um} ann^{um} p^{er}
sequi possit debitam p^{ro}munit^{io}em p^{er}

and extraordinary rents and ser-
vices upon the same hospital in
any way whatsoever incumbent
during the term aforesaid And
also the said John will pay
annually for each week during
the term aforesaid to each male
or female leper who shall be there
at the time fivepence and once in
the year two gammons of barley
and one bushel of oatmeal And
the said John all the houses and
buildings and the church of the
said hospital shall maintain
repair and keep up well and
competently at his own proper
costs and expenses during the
term aforesaid and shall leave
them in good condition at the
end of his term And the aforesaid
John will cut down no tree
there except by supervision of
the mayor of the town of North-
ampton aforesaid for the time
being for repair or for necessary
works relating to the church or
houses of the hospital aforesaid
or to the husbandry of the same
nor shall he demise any lands or
tenements of the said hospital to
any other beyond his state or
term aforesaid without license of
the said mayor and his ad-
j^utgesses or their successors Pro-
vided always that if the said John
shall not have repaired nor caused
to be repaired and made good
well and sufficiently at his own
proper costs all the houses and
buildings and the church of the

em dñe ville p tempe exit-
 idm Johi inde fact bene &
 ent^o suis ppijs sumtibz non
 it nec repari & emendari
 tunc bene liceat deis maiori
 mburgenſ in dñm hoſpiile
 ribz ſris seu reddit^o prat^o
 is paſtur ac omibz alijs com-
 ſibz pſicuis & ptiñ ſuis hoſ-
 dñeo aliquo modo ptiñ rein-
 & ea in priſtino ſtatu ſuo
 e & tenere pſent indentur
 ſſione traditõe & diuiſione
 iquo non obſtante Et ad
 pmiſſa expte dñi Johis bñ
 er tenend & pimplend Idm
 concedit ſe teneri & obli-
 pſat^o maiori & ſucceſſoribz
 irmit^o p pſentes In cuius
 ſtimoniũ vni pti itius in-
 f penes pſat^o Johem re-
 nti pſat^o Maior ex aſſenſu
 * Comburgenſ ſuoz p^odcoz
 um officij maiorat^o ſui p^odñi
 ſuit Cuius vero altera pars
 pſat^o Maiorem & Cõbur-
 ſ ſuos p^odcoſ ſigillo ipius
 reſidet conſignat^o Dat^o apud
 : viceſimo tertio die menſis
 j Anno regni Regis Ed-
 quarti poſt conqñ tertio
 o &c

said hospital within one year next
 following after due warning by
 the mayor of the said town for
 the time being to the same John
 thereupon given then it may be
 quite lawful for the said mayor
 and burgesses to re-enter into
 the said hospital with all its
 lands or rents fields meadows
 pastures and all other commodi-
 ties profits and appurtenances
 in any way belonging to the
 hospital aforesaid and to restore
 and keep them in their former
 condition the concession delivery
 and division of the present in-
 denture in anything notwith-
 standing And to all the premisses
 on the part of the said John well
 and faithfully to hold and fulfil
 the same John allows that he is
 held and bound to the aforesaid
 mayor and his successors firmly
 by the presents In testimony
 whereof to the one part of this
 indenture remaining in the cus-
 tody of the aforesaid John the
 aforesaid mayor by the assent of
 his 24 burgesses aforesaid has
 put the seal of his office of mayor
 aforesaid and the other part of
 it remains in the custody of the
 aforesaid mayor and his burgesses
 aforesaid stamped with the seal
 of the same John Given at North-
 ampton on the 23rd day of the
 month of March [1473] in the
 13th year of the reign of King
 Edward the 4th after the Con-
 quest &c

[Folio 127a.]

[WRIT TO THE SHERIFF OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.]

Henricus dei gra Rex Angl
& ffranc & Dux Hibernie Vicecomes
salm supplicavit nobis Johannes
Motte ut cum ipso de vita sua
& mutilatione membrorum suorum per
Johannem Water de Whitechirche
& Laurencium Jonneservant Walter
de Whitechirche gratum &
manifeste comminatus existat.
Velimus per securitatem suam in hac
parte puidere. Nos supplicatione
predicta annuentes tibi precipimus fir-
miter iniungentes quod prefatos Johannem
Water Johannem Harle & Laurencium
coram te corporaliter venire fac
& ipsos ad sufficientes manucap-
tores inveniendos qui eos manuce-
patores sub certa pena sibi pro-
prie rationabiliter imponenda per quam nobis
responderi volueris quod ipsi dampnum
vel malum aliquod eidem Johanni
Motte de corpore suo non faciant
nec fieri procurabit quovismodo
compellas Et si hoc coram te facere
recusaverint tunc ipsos Johannem Water
Johannem Harle & Laurencium per
prisonem nostram committas in eadem
salvo custodiendos quousque hoc
gratis facere voluerint. Et cum se-
curitatem illam sic cepis nos
inde in Cancellarium nostrum sub sigillo
tuo distincte & aperte sine dilatione
reddas certiores hoc habere

Henry by the grace of God
King of England and France and
Lord of Ireland to the sheriff of
Buckinghamshire Greeting John
Motte³³⁵ has petitioned us that
whereas he is grievously and
manifestly threatened concerning
his life and mutilation of his
limbs by John Water of Whit-
church and
Lawrence Jonnes servant of
Walter of Whitchurch we would
be willing to provide for his
security in this matter We
assenting to the petition aforesaid
strictly charge and enjoin you
that you cause the aforesaid John
Water John Harle and Lawrence
to come bodily before you and
compel them to find sufficient
sureties who would be willing to
become bail for them under a
fixed penalty reasonably to be
put upon them for which you will
answer to us that they do not
inflict or cause to be inflicted
any damage or mischief whatever
upon the same John in any way
as to his body And if they shall
refuse to do this in your presence
then you must commit them John
Water John Harle and Lawrence
to our nearest prison to be kept
safely in the same until they
shall be willing to do this of their
own accord and when you shall
have so taken that security you
must distinctly and openly inform

³³⁵ John Motte was mayor of the town in 1527-8 1538-9.

nittentes T me ipo apud
viii^o die Aprilis Anno r
mo Monter

us of it in our Chancery under
your seal without delay returning
this brief to us Witness myself
at Westminster the 8th day of
April [1516] in the 7th year of
our reign Monter

[WRIT TO THE SHERIFF OF BEDFORDSHIRE.]

iricus dei grā Rex Angl
e & Dux Hibn vic Bed
um in statuto in plamento
nup Regis Angl pgeni-
ri apud Westm nup tento
visum sit qd subvicecomes
is vic in officijs suis ult^a
nū non morient^r. Ac iam
ims qd Thomas Stretton
i officio elici vic com p^odei
es annos stetit cont^a for-
tuti p^odei minus iuste. Nos
s statutu p^odem in omib;
bilit obseruari tibi p^ocipi-
mit; iniungentes qd si ita
e ipm Thomam ab officio
sine ditone ammoueri &
licum magis idoneū &
p quo respondere volūis
no poni & deputari fac
ormam statuti p^odei T me
ud Westm x^{mo} die No-
Anno r ā septimo

b^{re} de statuto
Wymbylh

Henry by the grace of God [Folio 127b.]
King of England and France
and Lord of Ireland to the sheriff
of Bedfordshire Greeting Whereas
in a statute issued in a parliament
of the Lord Edward lately King
of England our progenitor lately
held at Westminster it was pro-
vided that the under-sheriff and
clerk of the sheriff should not
continue in their office beyond
one year And now we have been
given to understand that Thomas
Stretton now in the office of
clerk of the sheriff of the county
aforesaid has remained for several
years contrary to the form of the
statute aforesaid illegally We
wishing that the statute aforesaid
in all things should be observed
inviolably charge and strictly
enjoin you that if this is so then
you cause him Thomas without
delay to be removed from the
office aforesaid and another clerk
more suitable and faithful for
whom you will answer to be put
and appointed in his place accor-
ding to the form of the statute
aforesaid Witness myself at
Westminster the 10th day of No-
vember in the 7th year of our reign

Brief about the statute
Wymbyssh

[LETTERS PATENT OF 3RD HENRY VIII., Granting free pardon
to John Collet.]

[Folio 128a.]

Henricus dei gr̃a Rex Anglie
& francie & Dominus Hibnie
Omnibz balliuis & fidelibz suis
ad quos p̃sentes tre pueñt
saltm Sciatis qd de gr̃a ñra sp̃ali
ac ex c̃ta scientia & mero motu
ñris p̃donauimus remissim⁹ & re-
laxauimus Johi Collet nup de
Norhampton in Com̃ Norht Cor-
nyfoure alias d̃co Johi Colit de
Norhampton in Com̃ Shomaker
alias d̃co Johi Colette de Nor-
hampton Yoman alias d̃co Johi
Collett nup de Norhampton la-
borer alias d̃co Johi Colleyte
nup de Dustoun in Com̃ Norht
husbondman alias d̃co Johi Colete
nup de Norhampton in Com̃
Norht Geylour seu quocumq; alio
ñie conceat⁹ omniod t̃nsigres-
siones forisf̃eu⁹ penas debit
misprisiones contemptus & im-
petitōes p̃ ip̃m Johem ante nonū
diem Nouem̃br vltimo p̃t̃it cont⁹
formam statutoz de signis libta⁹
pannoz & capucioz ac retentōibz

Henry by the grace of God
King of England and France and
Lord of Ireland to all bailiffs and
their faithful men to whom the
present letters shall come Greet-
ing You must know that of our
special grace and of our certain
knowledge and mere motion we
have pardoned remitted and re-
laxed to John Collet lately of
Northampton in the county of
Northampton cordwainer other-
wise called John Colit of North-
ampton in the county [of North-
ampton] shoemaker otherwise
called John Colette of Northamp-
ton yeoman otherwise called John
Collett lately of Northampton
labourer otherwise called John
Colleyte lately of Duston in the
county of Northampton husb-
andman otherwise called John Colete
lately of Northampton in the
county of Northampton tailor(?)
or by whatsoever other name he
may be known all kinds of tres-
passes forfeits penalties debis
misprisions contempts and im-
peachments by him John before
the ninth day of November last
past against the form of the
statutes concerning the emblems
of the livery of clothes and hoods
and concerning retinues whatso-

catalla felonū & fugitiuoz & felonū de se deodand thesaurum inventum ac om̄mod destrucciones & t̄nsgressiones de viridi vel venatōe venditōes boscoz infra foreitas & ext^a ante dēn nonū diem Novembr infra regnū n̄m Angl et March Wall ein⁹s & euent⁹ vnde punitio caderet in demand debit seu in finem & redemptōem aut in alias penas pecuniarias seu in forisfcu^r bonoz & catalloz aut imprisonmenta seu am⁹ciamenta Coitatum villaz vel singularum psonarum vel in on⁹atōem libi teū eo^r qui nunq^m t̄nsgressi fuerunt vt hered executoz vel t̄retentiū Escaeto^r vicecomitum & alioz huiusmodi & om̄e id quod ad nos v⁹sus ip̄m Johem ptinet seu ptinere possēt ex causis sup^adictis Et insup pdonauim^r remisim^r & relaxauim^r eidem Johi t̄cias & t̄ciaz t̄cias omnimod prisonaz in guerra captoz nob^r pgenitorib^r siue antecessorib^r n̄ris quondam Regib^r Angl aut R t̄tio nup de f̄co & non de iure Regi Angl seu eo^r Alicui d̄co nono die Novembr p eundem Johem qualit⁹cumq^r debit ptinen siue spectan necnon omniod demand t̄nsgressiones offensās negligentias contemptus mispri-

tels of felons and fugitives and suicides deodands treasure trove and all kinds of destructions and trespasses concerning vert or hunting selling of wood within forests and without before the said ninth day of November within our realm of England and the marches of Wales issuing and to issue whence punishment should be inflicted on due demand either by fine and redemption or by other pecuniary penalties or by forfeitures of goods and chattels or imprisonments or fines of communities towns or single persons or by obligation of free tenant (?) of those who have never done harm such as heirs executors or tenants of land escheators sheriffs and other persons of that kind and everything that pertains or can possibly pertain to us against the same John in the causes above-said And further we have pardoned remitted and relaxed to the same John the thirds and thirds of thirds of all kinds of prisoners taken in war to us our progenitors or ancestors formerly Kings of England or to Richard the Third lately actually and not lawfully King of England or to any one of them on the said ninth day of November by the said John in any way appertaining or belonging and also all kinds of demands trespasses offences negligences contemptus mispri-

& impetitiones p ipm
ante eundem nonū diem
abf cont^a formam tam
imq3 statutoꝝ ordinatōum
uisionū fact⁹ sive edit
quisitionib3 acceptatōib3
g publicatōib3 notificatōib3
cutōib3 quibuscumq3 quaz-
tra3 & bullas aplicas &
ioꝝ statutoꝝ & puisionū p-
quoꝝ aliqua secta v⁹ius
n Johem p billam vel p
p⁹munire fact seu alimodo
mq3 p aliqua ma⁹ia ante
nonū diem Novemb^r facta
aleat qm quozcumq3 alioꝝ
3 fact siue ppetrat⁹ ante
n nonū diem Novemb^r
s ordinatōib3 & puisionib3
on obstantib3 Prouiso semp
ns pdonatio nra ad aliquos
itores false monete in ali-
e non extendat In cuius
timoniū has tras nras fieri
patentes. Teste me ipo
Westm⁹ primo die Martij
regni nri Etio &c

p ipm Regem

Skyptoun

maricus die gfa Rex Angt
ne et Dominus Hib⁹ ditis
ic Emion Willmo Chambr
e Haselwode Willmo Herte-
Ricō Burton.

sions and impeachments by him
John before the same ninth day
of November against the form of
whatsoever statutes ordinances
and provisions made or issued
concerning perquisites accept-
ances lections publications noti-
fications and excuses whatsoever
and of whatsoever letters and
bulls apostolic and all other
statutes and provisions under
pretext whereof any suit against
the same John could be made
by bill or by brief of præmunire
or by any other way whatso-
ever for any matter done before
the said ninth day of November
as of whatsoever other statutes
done or perpetrated before the
same ninth day of November
those statutes ordinances and
provisions notwithstanding Pro-
vided always that this our pre-
sent pardon shall not extend in
any way to any coiners of false
money In testimony whereof we
have caused these our letters to
be made patent Witness myself
at Westminster the 1st day of
March in the 3rd year of our
reign &c

By the King himself

Skyptoun

Henry by the grace of God
King of England and France and
Lord of Ireland to his beloved
Richard Emson William Cham-
bre Thomas Haslewode William
Hertewell and Richard Burton

[Folio 129a.]

Saltm̄ Sciatis qd cum Cōitates
regni n̄ri Angt in parlamento
n̄ro apud Westm̄ nono die No-
vem̄br vltimo p̄tito tento de
auisamento & assensu dñoz
sp̄ualiū & temporalium in eodem
parlamento n̄ro auctoritate n̄ra
existen̄ ad honorē dei & p̄ tuitōe
& defensione dēi regni n̄ri con-
cesserint nob̄ quedam subsidia
soluend & leuand modo & forma
sequent videlt dequatt p̄sona ar-
tifice non nata infra dēū regnū
n̄rū Angt nec indigent fact hos-
pim tenente infra idem regnū
sex solidos & octo denarios p̄-
p̄lis natis in t̄ris n̄ris H̄brn Wall
Berwici & bund eiūdem Cales
& March eiūdem & om̄ib;
insulis sub obedicia n̄ra p̄p̄lis
similt natis infra ducatos n̄ros
vallon Aquitan & Norman tunc
existen̄ & qui extunc erunt sub
obediencia n̄ra exceptis & re-
seruatis Et si due vel tres huius-
modi p̄sone artifices vel plures
in num̄o exceptis p̄exceptis in
vna domo maneant vel aliquam
cam̄am teneant qd quitt eazdem
soluat dēū subsidū sex solidoz
& octo denarioz. Et de quatt p̄-
sona non indigen̄ non nata infra
regnū dinum t̄ras insulas villas
bund & march n̄ra p̄dēa seu sub

[Folio 129b]

Greeting You must know that
whereas the communities of our
realm of England in our parla-
ment held at Westminster on the
ninth day of November last past
with the advice and assent of the
lords spiritual and temporal in
the same our parliament by our
authority existing to the glory of
God and for the protection and
defence of our said realm granted
to us certain subsidies to be paid
and raised in the manner and
form following that is to say from
every handicraftsman not born
within our said realm of England
and not become indigent receiving
hospitality within the same king-
dom six shillings and eight pence
people born in our lands of Ire-
land Wales Berwick and its
bounds Calais and its marches and
in all islands under our obedience
and likewise people born within
our duchies of Aquitaine
and Normandy then being or who
hereafter shall be under our obe-
dience excepted and reserved
And if two or three persons
handicraftsmen of this kind or
more in number except as before
excepted shall abide in one house
or shall occupy a chamber that
every one of them shall pay the
said subsidy of six shillings and
eight pence And from every
person not indigent not born
within our realm dominion lands
islands towns bounds and marches
aforesaid or being under our

nra existeñ infra dēm
 m hoipitiū non tenente
 n duos sólidos s'uien-
 ondrie omīno exceptis.
 att piona non indigeñ
 aliquam domū pand-
 i vocat a Berehous
 e infra hoc regnū
 m viginti solidos. Et
 quott Veniciano Italice
 florentino Milenario
 Albtino & Lombardo
 existeñ Brocario seu
 attorñ alicui eozdum non
 xisten infra dēm regnū
 quott alio m'catore ex-
 it idem regnū nrm
 eptis p' exceptē hoipitiū
 aut soiorante infra dēm
 m p spatiū triū mensum
 nta solidos dēis artificibz
 xatoribz inde exceptis
 itis. Et de quott Venici-
 ico Januensī florentino
 o Catellino Albtino &
 lo m'catore existeñ vel
 attorñ cuius'it eoz. Et de
 o m'catore ext'neo nato
 in ducatus Insulas villas
 March ante dict' non
 comorante infra dēm
 m & non hoipitiū infra
 nte set soiorante in
 oco sub obedientia nra
 itis m'catoribz ext'neis
 vel fcoribz aut eoz aliquo

obedience within our said realm
 not receiving hospitality within
 the same two shillings servants
 of husbandry altogether excepted
 And from every person not in-
 digent keeping any house of
 entertainment called a beerhouse
 within this our realm aforesaid
 twenty shillings And similarly
 from very merchant from Venice
 Italy Genoa Florence Milan
 Castile Albert and Lombardy
 being a broker or dealer or any
 attorney of the same not being
 indigent within our said realm
 And from every other foreign
 merchant born without our same
 kingdom except as above ex-
 cepted receiving hospitality or
 sojourning within our said realm
 for the space of three months
 forty shillings the said handi-
 craftsmen and innkeepers ex-
 cepted and reserved And from
 every man that is a merchant
 from Venice Italy Genoa Flo-
 rence Milan Castile Albert and
 Lombardy or the dealer and
 attorney of each one of them
 And from every other foreign
 merchant born without the do-
 minion duchies islands towns
 bounds and marches aforesaid
 not indigent staying within our
 said realm and not receiving
 hospitality within the same but
 sojourning in some place under
 our obedience with the afore-
 said foreign merchants brokers
 or dealers or any one of them

[Folio 130a.]

viginti solidos dēis sumis sepe-
alibz nob soluend & leuand ad
festum Pasche p̄ futuſ. Et si ali-
quis Venicianus Italicus Januen-
sis florentinus Milenarius Catel-
linus Albtinus vel Lum̄dus ante-
dict⁹ vel alius ext⁹neus natus ext⁹
dominū ducatus Insulas villas
bund & march antedict⁹ comorans
& exspectans infra dēn regnū
nrm hospiciū se cam⁹am non tenens
vt p̄dēm est p̄ spatiū triū mentiū
recedat ext⁹ dēn regnū nrm
anteq̄m dēe sume & eaz quett
nob sint plenarie contente &
solute modo vt p̄dictū qd tunc
p̄ona & p̄one & eaz quett cum
quibz ip̄i sūnt comorantes resi-
dentes & frequentantes dēo nono
die Novembr onorabilis & on⁹ata
existat ac on⁹abiles & on⁹ate ex-
istant cū & p̄ quat sūmaz ante-
dēaz nob p̄ quamlt huiusmodi
p̄sonam sic se diūten debit Nos
volentes de p̄missis p̄ vos plenius
c̄tiorari ac de subsidiis antedēis
ad dēn festum Pasche p̄ futuſ
fidelit⁹ responderi necnon de fi-
delitate & circumsp̄ctōe vris
plenius confidentes. Assignauim⁹
vos coniunctim & diuisim ad in-
querend & p̄scrutand om̄ibz viis
modis & mediis quibz melius
scūitis aut pot̄itis in Com̄ Norht
tam infra libtates qm ext⁹ de

twenty shillings The said several
sums to be paid to us and raised
by the feast of Easter next com-
ing And if any man from Venice
Italy Genoa Florence Milan Cas-
tile Albert or Lombardy aforesaid
or other foreigner born without
the dominion duchies islands
towns bounds and marches afore-
said dwelling and waiting within
our said realm for hospitality but
not having a chamber as is said
above for the space of three
months shall depart from our
said realm before the said sums
and every one of them be fully
discharged and paid to us in the
manner as is aforesaid that then
the person and persons and each
one of them with whom they had
been dwelling residing and asso-
ciating on the said ninth day of
November shall be charged and
liable with and for every one of
the sums aforesaid to us from
every person of this kind so de-
parting due We desiring to be
fully certified by you concerning
the premisses and to be faithfully
answered concerning the sub-
sidies beforesaid at the said
feast of Easter next coming and
also confiding fully in your fidelity
and circumspection have ap-
pointed you jointly and severally
to enquire and search out by all
ways manners and means that
you best know or can in the
county of Northampton as well
within the liberties as without

& singulis nōib; & psonis
 concessione specificata &
 eazdem psonaz exceptis
 otis cum huiusmodi pecunia;
 s nob p ipas p̄textu conce-
 p̄dēdebit in scriptis redigē
 ad inquisitiones inde distincte
 e fēas Thē & Baronib;
 e scōio ad festum p̄dēm sub
 vris & sigillis eoꝝ p quos
 int mittend et ad aliquos
 fidedignos p collectōe &
 e sumāz antedētaꝝ seēdm
 ōes v^{as} magis sufficientes
 and et assignand. Ita qd nob
 m̄is pecuniaꝝ antedēis ad
 p̄dēu in forma p̄dēa fi-
 respondeat Thē & Barones
 ōio nro p̄dēo de nōib; illoꝝ
 ad hoc deputauitis cit^a fest-
 p̄dēm distincte & apte
 antes Et ideo voꝝ mandam^a
 uni dilone postposita circa
 diligēti intendatis & ea fac
 equamini in forma p̄dēa.
 autem vniūsis & singulis
 mitib; maiorib; Balliuis
 abularijs ac Alijs fidelib;
 ditis nris quibuscumq; tam
 libtates qm ext^a tenore
 iū

concerning all and singular the
 names and persons in the said
 concession specified and to put
 in writing the names of the same
 persons except as before excepted
 together with the sums of money
 of this kind due to us from them
 on pretext of the concession
 aforesaid and also to send the
 inquisitions made in this matter
 distinctly and openly to our
 treasurers and to our barons of
 the exchequer by the feast afore-
 said under your seals and the
 seals of those by whom they
 were made and to depute and
 appoint some trustworthy men
 quite sufficient for the collecting
 and raising the sums aforesaid
 according to your discretions So
 that you faithfully answer to us
 concerning the sums of money
 aforesaid by the feast aforesaid
 in form aforesaid distinctly and
 clearly certifying the treasurers
 and barons of our exchequer
 aforesaid concerning the names
 of those whom you have deputed
 to this work before the feast
 aforesaid And so we command
 you putting aside all delay that
 you give your diligent attention
 about the premisses and do them
 and complete them in form afore-
 said But we strictly give it in
 command to all and singular
 sheriffs mayors bailiffs constables
 and other our faithful men and
 subjects whatsoever as well with-
 in the liberties as without by the

[Folio 130b.]

firmi in mandatis qd voß & cuitt
vrm in executōe p'missōz pareant
obediant & intendant put docet.
In cuius rei testimoniū has lras
nras fieri fecim' patentes. T me
iþo apud Westm xxj die Januarij
Anno rñ 2tio

tenor of these presents that they
be submissive obedient and at-
tentive to you and to each one of
you in the execution of the
premisses as is fit In testimony
whereof we have caused these
our letters to be made patent
Witness myself at Westminster
the 21st day of January in the 3rd
year of our reign

Skypton

Skypton

HERE BEGINNETH THE STATUTE OF WYNCHESTRE ²³⁶

[13TH EDWARD I STAT 2]

FOR alleso muche that day bi day Manslawhters theftis Robberies
more often are don thanne were wonte to ben . And ffelonies
ne moun noust ben atteynte by othes of Jorous that more wyle-
fullike sufferen ffelonyes done to straunge men passen with owter
peyne . Than for to enditen the felouns And the mydoers where-
thorowe agrete ptie arne ffolke of contre or atte leste . Jf the
mydoers arnn of other countre . her recytors arnn of that contre .
And so done that thei it . for anne othe is noust nor draden to the
iorours . Ne to the contre ther as the felonyes arn don whan to
restitution of harme peyne for to ne was noust ordeyned . for her
concelyng and her slownes

[Folto 131a.]

OURE lorde the kyng for to abaten the drede of ffelouns soo
hath ordeyned a peyne in that case . So that for drede of the
peyne . more thanne for drede of her othe . To no man her by
forwarde not sparen nor none felonye concelen Comaundid hit is
that solemply be the crie made in alle Shires Hundreddes Chepynges
and ffeyres And in alle suche othir stedis . Ther als solempne assemble
of folke shall ben Soo that no man by rekkeleschipe hym may
excusen . That eily contre so be kepte that anon ryght astur
Robberies ar felonyes done . Be made freth sute from toun to
toun . ffrom fraunchise to fraunchise . And enquestes also be done
if myster be in tounes . Bi hym that is soueyn of the toun And

²³⁶ This transcript is very different from the Act, as printed in the Statutes at Large, being here much abbreviated.

astur in hundredes and in fraunchises . and Shires . And othir while
 in two or in thre or in ffoure shires . Soo that the mydoers moun
 ben ou taken . And sufferen in wise And if the contre of fuche man⁹ [Folio 131b.]
 mydoers ne aniwere not . The peyne shall be fuche in euy contre .
 that is for seyne . ffolke dwellyng in contres shall ensweren of
 roberies and of harmes done soo that in alle the hundred ther as
 the Roberie shalle be done . With the ffraunchyses that arnne
 within the pvrute of the same hundred sholn answeren of the
 Robberie that is done . And if the Robberie be done in deptyng of
 hundred so sholn answeren bothe hundred w^t her ffraunchises that
 with Jnne the p^resentes ben . And no longer terme shall haue the
 contre astur the Robberie or the felonie done . But halfe a yere .
 With Jnne the which it be hoveth hem to make gree of the Robberie
 and of the myldoyng And that thei aniweren of the bodies of the
 mydoers . And for allso muche that the kyng wyllnott that folke ben
 todeynly made poer . of this peyne that semeth harde to some folke .
 Graunteh that hit ne be anon Right over Runneñ . But taketh the [Folio 132a.]
 peyne in respite till the Esterne next comyng . Andwith in fuche
 terme shall the kyng sende how the contre shall beren hem And
 synten of syrhe Robberies and felonies . Astur whiche terme alle be
 they c^reyne that euy jere shall renne in this peyne gen^rally . That
 is for to seyne ffolke in Countre dwellyng shall answeren of Rob-
 beries and felonies done in her Countre . The kyng hath
 comaundid that in grete tounes that arnn closed with walles . That
 the yates ben shutte from the sonne goyng down till the sonne
 Ryfing And that no man herberow hym in subbarbes . but if it be
 daye . Nor on daie but the hofte wyll for hym Aniweren . And the
 baillifs of tounes ilke bi hym selue euy woke or atte the leste euy
 guynseyne do maken enquestes . of men herberowed in subbarbes or
 in the foreyn chef of tounes . And if thei fynden any herberger
 that Resseyneh folke or herborowe folke Ageyne the peas . so to do
 the bailliffis Rightfulnesse And from hens forwarde is comaundid [Folio 132b.]
 that wachyng on nyghtes to be os thei were wonte be fore
 tyme . That is for to seyne . from hooly thorfdaye till michelmasse
 in euy Citee with .vj. men at euy jate . And in euy Burgh by
 .xij. men . And in euy hole toun by .vj. men or bi foure Astur the
 coumb^r of folke that dwellen and make the wache comunly all
 the nyghte . ffrom the sonne goyng down till the Ryfing vpon
 the morowe And if any straunge man passe by hem . Be he Arrest-
 ed till on the morowe . And if thanne noo suspecion be founde

of hym that is attached. Goo he quyte. And if me fynde suspicious be he delyued to the Sherrefe anon Right. And with owten daunger he hym Reseyne and wisely him kepe till he in due man^{er}e be delyued. And he ne suffur not to ben arrested. Be honthes rered vpon hem. And tho that arn kepers of the toun

[Folio 133a.] Hem sewen with alle the toun and with neyghbores of tounes. with owte hes from toun to toun till he be taken and delyued to the Shirrue os it is seide be forne. And for the arrestyng of suche straunge folke no man ne be encheioned Comaundid hit is also that the hye weyes of tounes chepynge ben from hens forwarde enlarged ther os it is wode hegges buskes or dikes so that ther be no podell vnderwode or bukes Ther als men moun darken to yvell don nexte the weye by CC fete and CC fete on that other halfe. Soo that this statute neyther be abated ne alarged. till that it be clere above and by nethe. And if bi defaute of the lorde be that he wyll nott. podell vnder wode. ne buskes do down in the forme as it is be foreseide. And if Roberes ben done. soo answere the lorde. And if ther murtheryng be done be the lorde areymed at the kynges wille And if the lorde ne suffiseth not to don down vnderwode so

[Folio 133b.] shall the cuntre hym helpyn to done it. And the kyng will that in his demeyne londes and wodes with Jnne forest and with owten that weyes ben enlarged os it is be foreseide. And if parke be nye the hye weye so comaundeth that the lorde of the parke make lasse his parke till he haue the brede of CC fete. of wey os it is be foreseide. Or that he make such adike walle or hegge. That mydoers ne moun passen nor comen. It is ordeyned also that euery man haue in his house Armure for to kepe the peas after the olde assise That is for to seyne. that euery man by twixe xv. wyntur and .lx. ben assised and sett and sworne aftur the quantite of her londes and of her Catell. That is for to seyne at xv li of land and at Catell of xl marke haburioun hatte of Jreñ spere and horie and knyfe at x ponde of lande. and at Catell xxⁱⁱ marke harburioun salett swerd and knyfe.

[Folio 134a.] And who lasse hath than .xls of londe be thei sworne at Gyfar-nyes. knyfs and other small Armur and wepenes at xls of lande and more till hit come till an Cs bowes Arowes Swyrdes and knyfs And whos lasse hath of Catell than .x. marke Swirde knyfe and other smale wepenes. And all other that may haven bowes and arowes oute of the foreste. And with Jnne bowes and spers

And that sight of wepenes be made twise in the ȝere. And in euȝ ffraunchise hundred be choȝen two Constables to make the syght of wepouns And the forȝeide Constables pȝenten before the Justices assigned whan thei sholn comen into contre The defautes that thei haue founden of wepenes slownes of oute of tounes of weyes & pȝentmentȝ Allȝo of folke that herborouen straunge men in tounes of vpland for which thei wynnot answeren And the Justices Assigned in euȝ pliament repȝenten to the kyng and the kyng ther vpon shall make amendis And welle oȝe ȝee from hens forwarde Sherreues and baillifs with Jnne ffraunchises and with owten more and lasȝe That bailli in fforesterie haue in ȝee or in other manȝe that thei sewen and folowen the cry with cuntre and astur that thei arnn that thei haue hors and armur therto made. And if ther be any that willnot be the defautes pȝesented bi the Constables to the Justices assigned And astur that by hem the kyng as it is be foreȝeide. And the kyng cȝmaundeth and defendith That ȝeyre nor chepyng from hense forwarde not be holden in Chirchezardis for the worthe and the honoure of god and of holychirche. Youen at Wynchestȝr the viij daie of Septembȝr³³⁷ the ȝere of the kyng Edward. xiiijth &c

[Folio 134b.]

Hoc script sub
script per me
Georgium
Coldwell³³⁸

THE CHATRE OF THE FFRAUNCHISE OF NORTHAMPTON.³³⁹

[CHARTER OF 27TH EDWARD I.]

EDWARD THOROW THE GRACE OF God kyng of Englonde and lord of Jrelonde. and Duke of Acquitayne to Archebyshoppis Bishoppis. Abbotis Priours Erles. Baronns. Justices Shirreues Reues Mynistres and Baillifs and to his trewe gretith well. We haue ouȝeyn the Chartur whiche of noble memorie and mynde. Sir. H. som tyme kyng of Englonde oure ffadir made to the Burgeis of Northampton vpon theȝe wordes³⁴⁰ [H]enry thorow the grace of god kyng of Englonde lorde of Jrelond Duke of Normandye and of Acquitayne Erle of Andag to Archebyschoppis Bishoppis Abbotis Priours Erles Barons. Justices. Shirreues Reues Ministres and to all Baillifs and to his trewe sent gretynge. Wite ye vs haue graunted

[Folio 135a.]

³³⁷ This statute was made the 8th October, 1285, the date inserted here is incorrect.

³³⁸ This George Coldwell was, no doubt, the town clerk. He is hereinafter mentioned on page 430.

³³⁹ This charter, confirming the charters of 11th and 41st Henry III., is hereinbefore printed in English on page 56.

³⁴⁰ Charter of 11th Henry III.

and with this oure p^{re}sented chart^r haue confermed . To our Burgeis of Norht that none of hem may emplede oute of the wallis of the Burgh of Norhampton . of any plee . oute take the plees of owte holdynges . oute take Moneo's and our Minutres . Wee hau J

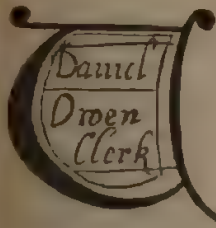
[Folio 135b.] graunted also te hem Acquytyng of Murdre with Jnne the Burgh and in portefoken . And that non of hem make bataile on ageyn another . And that of tho plees to the Croune longyng . hem mown thei disreioner astur the custume and viage of the Cytizens of the Cite of london . And that thei w^{it} Jnne the walles of the burgh no man take In nor herborowe by strenght ne by delyuance of the kynges mareilhall . And that all the burgeis of Norht ben quyte of Tolle and of lastage by all Engelande and the havenes of the See . And that no man of am^ocymment of catell be aiuged but astur the lawe which haue our Citizeyns of london in tyme of H . kyng our Ayel . And that in that Burgh in non plee be mystkenyng . And that an huseing only in the weke be holden . And that they haue Rightfully her landes her holdynges her weddes . and all her dettis . who so hem owen . And that of her landes and holdyng with Jnne the Burgh ben Right to hem be Holden Astur the viages of the Burgh . And of alle her dettis that lent ben at Norht . And of weddis ther made and leide plees at Norht be thei holden . And if ther be any in all Engeland Tolle or custome of pe men of Norht had taken . sithen that he of Right had defayled . The Reue or the Baillifs of Norht withernome ther offen at Norht shall taken . Therwith also to amending of that ilke Burgh to hem we hau graunted . That thei ben quyte of Brudtoll and of Gyldwitz and of 3eretseue . and of Scotage . So that the Reue of Norht or any other Bailif not make non Scotage theise be fore named Custumes to hem we hau graunten . And all other ffraunchises and ffree custumes . which hadden oure Citiyenes of london whan thei hem hadden bett and most ffreest in tyme of forseide H . kyng oure aiell . astur the fredomes of london and the lawes of the Burgh of Norht . And therfor we willen & stedfastly comaunden that thei and her heyres alle theise thynges by heritage haue and holden of vs and of oure heires zeldyng by yere . c . xxli in noumbr of the toun of Norht with

[Folio 136b.] all the appurtenauns at oure Chekker in the terme of Seint Michell by the hand of the Reue of Norht . and the Burgeis of the toun of Norht . Sholn maken the Reue whom thei wyllen of hem selue by 3ere That be couenable to vs and to hem in this maner That is to seyne that the forseid Burgeis of Norht by the comonn counseile of

the same tounshippe sholn Chosen tweyne of the most lawfull and wisest Burgeis of her toun And thei sholn p^resenten hem by her patent letters to oure chiefe Justice at Westm̄ that well and trewly shall kepen the puosserie of Norht. And ne be thei remued. Als longe as thei hem in her baillis hadden born. But bi the cōmun counseile of her tounshippe. We wyllyn alio that in the same Burgh of Norht by the cōmun conseile of the same toun be chosen foure of the most lawfull and wisest men of the Burgh to kepe the plees of oure Coronne. And other thyng that to vs longen in the same Burgh. And for to seen that the Reves of the same Burgh Rightwily and truely treten And drawn als well the pore as the riche As the Charto^r of Sir John the kyng our fadir which theroften they haue witnessith Resonably Theise witnesses worshipfull faders Joscelyn Bathon R. Saz biishoppes and other. youen bi the hond of worshipfull fadir. R. Cicestr biishopp our Chaunceler the yere of our Reigne elleueneth

[Folio 137a.]

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ANOTHER CHARTUR³⁴¹

E haue alio oulseyne another Charto^r the which the forseid oure fadyr alio made to the forseid Burgeis in Theise wordes Henry thorough the grace of god kyng of Engeland. lorde of Ireland. Duke of Normandy. Acquytayne and Erle of Andeg^r to Erchebiishoppis Biishoppes. Abbotis P^rours Erls Baronns. Justices Shirreues Reues Mynistres and all baillifs and his trewe sent gretynge. Wite ye vs hau graunted and with this our p^resent Charto^r hau confermed to our burgeis of Norht. That thei and the heyres of hem for eu^r haue pleyn Returne of alle oure Writtis Als well of somonis of oure Chekker os of other The forseid Burgh and the fraunchise of that towchyng. And that thei answeren by her handes at oure Chekker of allman² dettis somonns and askynges hem towchyng. So that if any shirreue or other baillif or our Ministr from hens forwarde entre that Burgh. to any distrellis somonns or othir thynges to done. That longeth to her office but in defaute of hem or of her heyres And that thei haue Infangenthes and that non of hem emplede oute of the Walles of p^r burgh but of foreyn holdynges.

[Folio 137b.]

³⁴¹ Charter of 41st Henry III.³⁴² David Owen was, no doubt, the town clerk.

[Folio 138a.]

testat

[Folio 138b.]

Or allso of any trespas made in the same burgh. But vpon thyng oure Right and oure pson towchyng And that the forseide burgh ne ben not atteynte by any foreynes vpon any appeles Rightfulles Wronges . trespas . blames . chalenges or askynges putte to hem or shulde ben putte . but only by her owne comburgeis . but of sum thyng touching the comun of the same Burgh . And thanne in that Case be thei ladde astur her fraunchises approved and till this day vsede . And that no marchaunt in tyme of fleyres of the same Burgh be herborowed in the same burgh with his marchaundise But of the leue and the wyllle of the bailliffs of the same Burgh . So as hit sholde be done and was wonte in tyme of oure pdecessours kynges of Engeland And that thei moun distresse maken with Jnne the forseide Burgh for her dettis So as hiderto hath be done and was wonte . We haue grauntid to hem that if any of hem Where som eu in our Realme testat or vntestat dyen The heyres of hem the godis of hem dede fully may hauen als fer os her heires Resonably may shewen Tho godis to ben of the forseide dede . And that thei nor her godis ben not Arrested Any where ellis in oure Realme Nor that tho godis not leseyn . for any trespas of her seruauentis . And that thei may vrien the fredomes be fore named conteyned in this our Chartor . whan so eu thei wyllyn . All thow som tyme to hem was not soo We haue grauntid to hem also that thei and her heyres haue alle the fredomes to hem be fore to grauntid by oure chartor and bi the chartours of our pdecessours kynges of Engeland . So as to hem Resonably zit hedertowarde han vsed . And therefore we willen and stedfastly we comaunden for vs and for oure heires . That the forseid burgeis and her heyres for eu hauen the forseide fraunchises . And we defenden vpon oure forfeytur that no man hem ageynes this our graunte in anythyng distroble or make adrad . Theyre wittnesses Gefferey of leyum and William of Valenē oure brethern and othir . iouen by oure hande at Westm the xxviiiij day of Januaŕ In the yere of our Reigne xliij We for sothe the forseide grauntes hanne sermed and stable and worthi hem for vs and for our heyres In allso moche as in vs is to the forseid burgeis And to her heires and to other her successours Burgeis of the same toun for eu more wee haue graunten and confermyn Also the forseide Charters Resonably wittnessen We haue graunted also for vs and for oure heyres to the forseid Burgeis that thei & heires and her Successours eu yere for eumore At

the fest of Seynt Michael monn chofen a Mayre and two Bailliffz of hem seluen. And hym that thei hauen to be maire p̄senten at our chekker with Jnne the Octaues of the forseid ffeſt. Which that ther ſhall maken his othe of tho thyng that to the office of mayrialte longen. Trewly to done execucion whiche maire and Baillifs alle the p̄les of the ffraunchiſe of the forseide toun towchyng sholn holden and haunten so as by the baillifs of the ſame toun in tymes that arnn paſſed was wonte to be done. Theiſe wittneſſes worſhipfull fadres A Dunolm Wynton and Saꝝ biſhoppis. Henry Lacy Erle of Lyncoln and other. youen by oure honde at Caunturbury the xxvijth of maij the 3ere of Reigne Seuen and twenty.

[Folio 139a.]

³⁴³ [T]ruely We hauyng forseide grauntes in oure mynde pleaſed and wrytyng pleaſid ſoo to be Admitted for vs & oure heyres. As myche as in vs is We graunte to the forseide Burgeſſes and their heyres. And other ſuceſſours to theym burgeſſes and their heyres p̄petually to Abyde. We nat oonly graunte hit But Allſo Anctecteuclly We conferme hit lyke maner As the forſaide p̄ſented confermyd Chartours bere wittnes. furthermore we wyllyng haſe graunted to the forseide Burgeſſes. Amore bountyvous grace in this partie. And Allſo hath confermyd hit with this oure p̄ſent Chartoure. That is to ſey though hit bee that the ſeide Burgeſſis or any of their forseid burgeſſes in Any Caſe happenyng have nat fully vied oon or any of the forseide ffraunches or graces or lybtees grauntid be ony of oure noble p̄genitours to this tyme or any quietance. Nott withſtondyng We will that the forseide Burgeſſes and their heyres and other for to come ſuceſſours Burgeſſes of the ſeide town of Norhampton ſchall En Joye & vſe their lybties and quietanc Affore graunted in oon and all withowte ony impedymēt of vs or of oure heyres juſtiſe Elchetoures Shreviſſe or other bailliffz or ony other of oure Officiers what ſomeu^r thei bee. And more ovir we will make more larger knowlech vnto the forseide town in what flauoure we haue theym burgeſſes and their heyres and ther ſuceſſours. And what large lybties we haue grauntid theym in this our p̄ſent Chartour with oure greate confirmacion for vs and our heyres And this we wylle & graunte and conferme that they have very

clark of
the markett

[Folio 139b.]

[Folio 140a.]

³⁴³ This portion is taken from the charter of 8th Richard II., although the commencement of that charter is not given.

knowlech of all plees . And of all man^o of Assises And of all other
 plees that happen or befall within the forseide town of Norhampton
 And the Subbarbis of the seide town of Norhampton . All theise
 plees And Assises we graunte & conferme to be holden and pleted
 Affore the Mayre and Bailliffz . of the seide town for that tyme
 beyng in the Gyldehalle of the forseide toun ppetually to be contynued .
 We will Allso that the maire of the seide toun for the tyme beyng .
 have in ppetuall the keepyng in the seide toun and Subbarbis of the
 same toun of Assise of brede wyne and Ale and Allso correccion
 & punnyshment of the same . Allso with ffynes and Amercyaments
 that may be Reised therof to turne to the profett and vse of the
 Comynalte of the toun and the Subbarbis of the same toun . Allso
 we graunte to the maire for the tyme beyng . Acyces and keepyng of
 Assises and oulight of mesures weightes in the toun And in the
 Subbarbis Afforseide of Norhampton . Aswell in oure pience As in
 oure Absence And of oure heyres . Allso wee graunte that the maire
 for the tyme beyng . That he see and duely examyne And preve all
 mesures and weightes . And thoo that he sees and proves falslie to
 burne theym dampne and distroye them And to ordeygne true and
 seall & marke lawfull mesures and weyghtes Accordyng to oure
 lawes . And not oonly this we graunte And gyffe full power that the
 mayre for the tyme beyng lesully and rightwisly Correcte & punyishe
 thoffendours and brekers of oure lawfull ordeyned mesures and
 weightes . We graunte and licence the meyre thus to doo As well
 in oure pience As in our Absence or ony of oure heires As often as
 nede is so to doo . And as hit semyth the mayre for the tyme beyng
 Reasonably soo to Correcte And punnyishe . Allso we graunte &
 conferme to the Mayre for the tyme beyng to have power ppetually
 in all this sforfettis . Affore Reherfed And the correccions as well in
 our pience As in our Absence . And nott oonly thoo Affore Reherfid
 but Allso we graunte theym full power to serche Inquire And to
 knowe of All sforfallers and Regraters of oure mercatis And sstured
 Shamellis flesshis Rotyn . And vnlawful ffysshes And vicious vitaille
 not Accordyng to oure lawes nor the weall of oure liege people for
 their bodyly profet within the toun and subbarbis of the seide town
 of Norhampton . We confideryng graunte to the maire for the tyme
 beyng full power to correcte punyishe And governe All theise pmyted
 offensis And for too Reise ffynes with sforfettis & Am^ocyAments
 And other vailes that may be Reised of the seid offensis to tovrne to
 the vayle of the seid Comynalte And Subbarbis of the seid town of

[Folio 14ob.]

[Folio 14ra.]

Norhampton. Also We graunte and gyffe full power to the maire for the tyme beyng Too florbidde. And Also we florbidde chargith And also cōmaunde that the Clerke of the Merket nor non other of oure officers or of oure heires In no maner of wise in-tromytte hym to hafe Adoo with ony Cavse or mater that parteynyth or longith too Correccions of Any pmyfed offensys or ffawtis of Mesures Weightes. Assises or florfettis of vitaille wyne or Ale fleuþe or ffyþe or ony thyng that pteynyth to the office of the Clerke of the Merket But that the Maire for the tyme being hafe the full power in his owne execucyon This wittnessith worthipffull fladers. William Tharbisshope of Caunterbury Primate of England

TEMPE JOHIS SAXBY MAIORIS

[Folio 141b.]

[IN THE TIME OF JOHN SAXBY³⁴⁴ MAYOR.]

M⁴ that at a Councell holden in the Guyhald of the Toun of Norh^mpton the Mondaie [4th December, 1531] next aft^r the fleast of Seint Andrew Thappostell in the xxiiijth yere of the Reigne of kyng Henry the eight BY THASSENT & concent of John Saxby maio^r of the seid toun of Norhampton Thoms Chipsey Withm Bond Richard Syxson Richard Bows John Bugby & John Motte late maio^rs of the same ffor many & diu^{se} consideracons misbehavyng^e & lewde demeanours of Thoms Wodward late of Norh^mpton asorseid m^{ce}r & Richard Johnson of the same m^{ce}r it is there fully desmyned condecendid and agrede by the seid Councell that the seide Wodeward & Johnson is & for eu^{er} shalbe Dymyssid & discharged excludid & put out of the Court & Councell of the seid toun of Norh^mpton & neu^{er} to be sōmoned ne takyn for any of the³⁴⁵ Company of the xxiiijth Comburgeßes of the same toun Also that the seid Wodward & Johnson shalle neu^{er} haue place ne seite wⁱⁿ the Court of the same toun where as other the xxiiijth Comburgenies do alweise sitt that is to sey wⁱⁿ the barris comynly callid the Chequer of the seid Court FFERTERMOR it is condecendid and hooly agrede by the seid Councell that if any of the forseid late maio^rs wich affore this tyme have byn

[Folio 142a.]

³⁴⁴ John Saxby, or Saxbee, was mayor of the town in 1509-10, 1520-1, and 1532-3.

³⁴⁵ The words:—"William Hampton the Company of the Comburges" are written in a later hand, on the top of the page.

[Folio 143b.]

maio's of the seid toun or that hereaft^r shalbe maio's of the same So at eny tyme hereaft^r Admytt take Sömon or calle the seid wodward & Johnson or either of theym to be of the seid Court or Councell w^out that it be by thallent & concent of the maio' for the tyme beyng & all other his breth^en wiche haue byn maio's of the same That then who so eü he be that so offendith doth the contrarie unto this o' p^rsent acte & dede shalle lose the some of tene pounde s^tlinge halfe therof to be forsett to the maio' for the tyme beyng & the other halff to the Chamber of the seid toun w^out any fauo^r of Redempcon theym to be shewid MOREO^r it is alio agrede & fully d^est^rmynded that if the seid Wodward & Johnson or any of theym p^rüme or take opon theym in eny tyme to come to the contrarie of this p^rient o' acte & dede that then thei or any of theym shalle lose & paie ffyve pounde s^tlyng halfe therof to the maio' for the tyme beyng & the other halfe to the chamber afforseid AND that this o' p^rient acte & dede to be recorded & regestrid in the Records of o' seid court & there emongs al other Recorde to remayne for eü In witness wherof J the forseid John Saxby maio' w^t al other my brethern be fore named to this p^rient o' deds we haue sett o' Names w^t o' owen hande the daie & yer abouseid

John Saxby Maior

Thoms Shippsey Wyllm Bond

Richard Bowyes x Richard Dyxson

John Bucky

□ John Motte

[Folio 143a.]

TEMPE RICI JOHNSON MAIOR &C

[IN THE TIME OF RICHARD JOHNSON³⁴⁶ MAYOR &C]

³⁴⁷ M^a that a counsell holden in the Guyhald of the toun of Northampton the xxj daie of Nouembr [1544] in the xxxvj yer of the reigne of o' soueigne lord Henry the eight by the grace of God of england france & Irland kyng Defsender of the seithe & in erthe the sup^rme hed of the Churche of England & Jerland By the assent & concent of Richard Johnson maier of the seid toun John Saxby Thoms Shiplsey Laurence Manley John

³⁴⁶ Richard Johnson was mayor of the town in 1545-6.

³⁴⁷ As much of this ordinance as is contained on this folio (143a) has been cancelled in the *Liber*.

Motte Laurence Waschyngton Richard Wilkinson Nicholas Band Willm Walgier Henry Neile John Brightmen John Bowers Antony Brian & Cristofer Barnar maiers of the seide toun of Norht for many mis behauynge lewid Demeaneurs pverse actions and diis other vrgent causes considerations her testified practisid & comyttid sterid & done as well within the seide toun of Norhmpton as wthout to the great detryment p'iudice sclaunder & hurt aswel of the same toun & libties of the same as also to the gret damage hurt vexacon & troble of many Inhabitants of the same toun & other the kynges subiects diise sondry waies by Wiffm Bugby of Norhmpton tann^r John Horpole of the same tann^r & Wiffm Oldham of the same corio^r Jtt is therfor fully determyned condicendid & agreed by hole assent and concent of the seide maior & other before named his brethern late maiors of the seid toun beyng congregate to gether in Councell in the seid Guyhald the daie & yere aboue writyn that from hensforthe the seid Wiffm Bugby John Horpole Wiffm Oldam and euy of theym be is & shalbe dymyssid dischargid excludid & clerly putt out bothe of this court & councell of the seid toun of Norht and nether to be sommyd reputid acceptid or taken ineny man^r of place assemble or going for eny of the company of xxiiijth comburgessees of the seid toun or of the xlvijth of the same and also that they & euy of theym shall neu^r haue eny place or seat w'in the seid toun or court as other of the Number of xxiiijth or xlvijth hath alweise had or hathe byn accustomed to haue But that they & euy of theym be and shalbe from hensforthe Reputed accepted & takyn in lyke man^r as though they had neu^r borne office w'in the seide toun or callid to eny Cuncellor elleccioun as other of the seid xxiiijth or xlvijth ought to be reputid somoned callid accept & takyn w'in the seid toun And fferthermor that the seid Wiffm Bugby John Horpolle and Wiffm Oldam ne any of theym shall from hensforthe p'vily or apertly resort repaire or come to the seid Ri^c Johnson now Maior or eny his successours to gyve councell either by word or writyng or comenly to frequent & haunt the Company of the seide Ri^c Johnson now maio^r or eny of his Successo^rs or to take upon theym or eny of theym or to p'ume to the contrarie of eny article clause act thyng or thyng before pritiid dymysid forbyden & excepted fferthermor it is also agreede & desmyned by the seid Ri^c Johnson & his brethern before named by one hole assent & concent of theym al in this p'ient

[Folio 143b.]

[Folio 144a.]

councell assembled that if the seid Wittm Bugby John Horpoll & Wittm Oldam or eny of theym from henisforthe p^rsume attempt or take opone them or any of theym to the contrarie of eny article clause act or thyng beforemencioned del^ymyned & agreed ageynst theym or eny of theym that then they & eny of theym shall Incurre forseit lose & paie for eu^y offence by them or eny of theym comitted & don to the contrarie of eny article or clause comprited in this p^rsent acte of counceill of the seid toun of Norht of the behalfe of the seid Wittm Bugby John Horpoll and Wittm Oldam excluded del^ymyned and agreed as is afforseid fyve pounce sp^ylyng Wherof the one moyte or halfendeth to be the maior of the seid toun for the tyme beyng & other half to the Ch^mber of the seid toun to be employed to the repaieryng of the payment of the same toun moreou^r it is condecendid & fully agreede by the seid councell w^t one hoole assent & concent that if any of the forseit maiors or their Successors do at eny tyme heraft^r receyve admytt somon call or take the seid Wittm Bugby John Horpelle and Wittm Oldam or eny of theym to be of the seid court counsell or nombre of xxiiij^a or xlvij^a or do pmyt reput or take theym as eny of the seid nombre in any man^r of assembly or goyng w^tout it be by the hole assent & consent of the maio^r for the tyme beyng and al his brethern that haue byn maio^rs by like councell assembled as afforseid That then the seid maio^r & his brethren & ev^y of theym that do attempt to do contrarye to this p^rsent act before del^ymyned shall incurre lose forseit & paie the some of tenne pounce sp^ylyng the one half therof to be to the kyng^e maiesty or sou^eigne lord his heires & successours and the other half therof to the Ch^mber of the seid toun towards the paviment^e of the same as is afforseid and that this p^rsent act shalbe Recorded and Regestrid in the Recorde of the seid toun of Northampton and ther emonge al other Recorde of the seid toun to Remayne for eu^r In witnesse wherof the Richard Johnson Maio^r & al other his brethern before named to this p^rsent act have put to their Sigmanuell the daie & yer abouesaid
John winifild of to Cockermonthe in Northuberland xl days in temp

[Folio 145b.]

Inquiratur p Dño Rege si
Thomas Hartishorne Juñ de Norht
in Com Norht Thomas Laurence

Let it be enquired for our
Lord the King if Thomas Har-
tishorne junior of Northampton
in the county of Northampton
Thomas Laurence of Northamp-

hampton in Comitatu
 scher Willelms Thomson
 in eodem com̃ bocher et
 Myryell de eadem in eodem
 er et Ricus Hudson de
 eodem Gardiner secundo
 rarij anno r̃ Henrici sep-
 decimovi & armis videt
 aculis & cultellis in Tho-
 m̃ apud Norht p̃dict̃ in
 c̃ insultm fecerunt & ip̃m
 Higham ad tunc & ip̃m
 unt vulnerauerunt et
 stauerunt Ita qd de vita
 abat contra pacem dei
 s &c

Thomas Hupton

colloqũm geñale teñ in
 die Veñis px post f̃m̃
 tis Archi Anno r̃ Henrici
 ixº p Johem Solle Maior
 n suū et totas Cōitas eiuf-
 e uni Asseñu & conceñu
 erunt in forma sequent
 patet in lingua mat̃na

ton in the county of Northampton
 butcher William Thomson of the
 same in the same county butcher
 and Richard Myryell of the same
 in the same county butcher and
 Richard Hudson of the same in
 the same county gardener on
 the 2nd day of February [1408]
 in the 13th year of the reign of
 King Henry the 7th with force
 and arms that is to say with
 swords sticks and knives made
 an assault upon Thomas Higham
 at Northampton aforesaid in the
 county aforesaid and him Thomas
 Higham then and there beat
 wounded and ill-treated so that
 he despaired of his life contrary
 to the peace of the said Lord the
 King &c

At a general conference held
 in the Guildhall on Friday [4th
 October, 1493] next after the
 feast of S Michael the Arch-
 angel in the ninth year of the
 reign of King Henry the 7th by
 John Solle mayor and his council
 and the whole community of the
 same town with unanimous assent
 and consent they ordained in
 form following that is to say as
 appears in the mother tongue

hit pvidid Alwey that yf eny bocher of the toun of Norht
 maner of hide or hydes but Allonly within the p̃cyncte
 bochery of the seide tonn. And he that doth the contrary
 profe therof made by Wyttnesse That p̃sone or p̃sones that
 adyth and trespasyth to paye to the meire & Chaum̃r for

the tyme beyng iijs iiijd And Amercyment to the bailiff; of xijd
for euy hyde or hydes soo solde w^oute the p^ryncnte of the forseid
bochery this Acte and statue may stonde for Alawe eumore for to
Abyde &c

[Folios 146a, 146b, and 147a are blank, on folio 147b is
written :—]

George Colewell ³⁴⁸

Anno Domini 1611

Tobie Colewell ³⁴⁹ towne clerke
in the yeare of ou^r lord god

1621

John Cuifford

John Chuifford

Beniermin Colewell

is my name with my penne

John Chuifford

[END OF LIBER CUSTUMARUM.]

³⁴⁸ George Coldwell, or Colewell, evidently the town clerk, is hereinbefore
mentioned on page 419.

³⁴⁹ Tobias Coldwell, or Colewell, is mentioned as the town clerk in the letters
patent of 16th James I., hereinbefore printed on page 133.



This initial M is a reproduction of that on the charter of 1st and 2nd Philip and Mary, hereinbefore printed on page 118.

Schedule of
Public, Local, and Private
Acts of Parliament relating
to the
County Borough of Northampton.

9th Henry VI.

1431.

An Act for Paving and Repairing certain Highways and Streets within the Town of Northampton.

This statute is hereinbefore mentioned on page 75, and hereinbefore printed in *Norman-French* on page 283, and in *English* on page 287.

4th Henry VII.

1489.

An Act for regulating the election of the Mayor and the Eight and Forty.

This statute is hereinbefore printed on page 101.

27th Henry VIII . c . I .

1535.

An Acte for repairing and amending of the townes of Gloucester, Nothingham, Northampton and other.

This act recited that certain towns, of which Northampton was one, then were and for a long time had been, in great ruin and decay, with many void grounds. Wherefore it pleased the King with the assent of the lords and commons to enact that if the owners of any decayed houses in these towns, did not rebuild and amend the same, within three years next after public proclamation of this act had been made by the mayor, it should be lawful for the chief lord of whom the same houses were held, to take the same absolutely on condition that he rebuilt and amended the same within three years; and if the lord did not rebuild and amend the same within three years, it should be lawful for the mayor and burgesses or the sheriff to take the same absolutely, on condition that they rebuilt and amended the same within three years; and if the mayor and burgesses or sheriff did not rebuild and amend the same within three years, it should be lawful for the first owner to take possession of the same without condition. There is a saving clause granting time for persons under age or in prison.

27th Charles II.13TH OCTOBER, 1675.An Act for the better and more easie Rebuilding the Town of *Northampton*.

This act recited that the greatest part of the town of Northampton had been burnt down by a sudden and dreadful fire, which had happened in September then last past. Wherefore it was enacted that the judges of assize for the county of Northampton, and other the justices of the courts of King's Bench and common pleas, the barons of the coif of the exchequer for the time being, the justices of peace for the said county for the time being, the mayor of the town of Northampton for the time being, and Sir John Holman, baronet, Sir Edmund Bray, knight, Thomas Willughby, James Stedman, Robert Hefslerge, Thomas Andrews, Thomas Ward, Charles Fleetwood, Daniel Danvers, Salathiel Love, and William Kimbold, esquires, or five, or more of them sitting at the Guildhall, or some other place in Northampton, should constitute a court of record, to determine all differences which should arise between landlords and occupiers of houses in the town, touching the rebuilding of the same, rent due or other matters, with power to enlarge or curtail the estates in the said premises. And with power to appoint rules for rebuilding the town. And generally to do all things necessary, under the circumstances. And it was further enacted that justices of the peace of the county who might reside in the town might exercise their office as justices within the town. And that all justices of the peace of the County might at the times of assizes and sessions of the peace for the county, exercise their office as justices within the town. And further that any person who within seven years should build a house of the value of £300, should have liberty to exercise any trade in the town, as a freeman could do.

This was the only act passed during this session of Parliament.

15th George II. c. II.

1742.

An Act for granting an Aid to His Majesty by a Land Tax to be raised in *Great Britain*, for the Service of the year One thousand seven hundred and forty two.

By this act the borough of Northampton was directed to raise the sum of £830. 7s. 10d., and a certain number of gentlemen, living in the town, were named as commissioners, to carry out the act.

The remainder of the county was directed to raise £46,882 2s. 3d.

18th George III. c. 79.

One of the Local and Personal Acts declared public.

1778.

An Act for paving, cleansing, lighting, and watching the town of *Northampton*; and for removing and preventing Incroachments, Obstructions, and Annoyances therein.

This act appointed a large number of the noblemen and gentlemen of the town and county as commissioners to put the act into operation, and provided for the election of new commissioners; but no person (except the mayor) could act unless he had a yearly income of £40 from lands or tenements, or a personal estate of £800 under a penalty. The commissioners, or seven, or more of them, were directed to meet at the Guildhall on the third Thursday after the passing of the act, and afterwards by adjournment; a chairman was to be appointed, and the proceedings entered in a book. The commissioners were empowered to appoint treasurers, clerks, collectors, and surveyors, and pay their salaries. The tenants or occupiers of houses or other hereditaments were to be rated or assessed at two shillings in the pound. But if the houses or other hereditaments were situate in any street or place not mentioned in the schedule to this act, the tenants or occupiers were only to pay two-thirds of the rate, until the streets or places were paved with flag stones for foot passengers, and with rag stone or pebbles for horse and carriage ways, in the same manner that the streets and places in the said schedule were directed to be paved. One moiety of the rate to be borne by the landlord, the other moiety by the tenant of the hereditaments. If the hereditaments should not be of the annual value of £3, or if the tenants should be excused from the payment of poor rates by reason of poverty, the before-mentioned rate should not be raised. But houses unoccupied were not to be assessed. The mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses were not to be considered owners on account of any ground rent, their lessees being considered owners of the property. Agreements between landlords and tenants as to paving or repairing streets were not to be deemed void by reason of this act. The commissioners were empowered to raise the rate by distress; they might also lower the same if they thought fit. Halls, gaols, chapels, church and chapel yards, and other public buildings situated on the streets directed to be paved were to be rated at one shilling and sixpence a yard, running measure, of the length of the front of such halls, yards, or buildings, except the county hospital and the house belonging to the county gaol, which were to be rated according to the poor rate, and except All Saints' church yard, and St. Giles' church yard, which were to be rated at one shilling a yard running measure, and except the Market Hill and Wood Hill (which had been repaired by the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses), and which were to be rated at one shilling a yard running measure, and the breadth of such measure on the Market Hill was to extend from gutter to gutter, taking the length of the Market Hill up the three divisions of the same. And the South Bridge and West Bridge, which were to be rated at one shilling and sixpence for every yard running measure. The rates on Market Hill

and Wood Hill, and any hall, gaol, or bridge belonging to the corporation were to be paid by the chamberlain of the town; on the county hall by the treasurer of the west division of the county of Northampton; on the county hospital by the treasurer of the hospital; on any almshouses by the masters or wardens; on any gaol by the gaoler; on any church or church yard by the churchwardens; and on any chapel by the ministers and deacons. Any person or body corporate aggrieved might appeal to the commissioners. The commissioners were empowered to erect a gate and toll house on or near the South Bridge, or in Cotton End, in the parish of Hardingstone, and take tolls thereat for all carriages, carts, or animals passing, and such tolls were vested in the commissioners. No inhabitant of the town was to pay toll for any carriage, cart, or animal, except they were travelling for hire or on Sundays; and the tolls were only to be paid once a day. The inhabitants of any parish within eight miles of the town might compound for tolls: and the inhabitants of certain named parishes were to be entirely free if the parish contributed twenty shillings annually. Other exemptions were made, such as carts laden with provisions for the use of the town, horses going to be shod or belonging to officers when on duty, carriages carrying post, mail, or packet, or going to and from the election of any knight of the shire or burgess of the town. Heavy penalties were provided for those who evaded the tolls. The commissioners were empowered to vary the tolls, and to let the same to farm. Carriages or carts were not to drag their wheel, unless it had a sledge under it. The commissioners were empowered to borrow money, assigning the rate as a security, by way of annuity or otherwise, but the interest was not to exceed £9 per cent. The whole of the money borrowed, however, was not to exceed £10,000. The tolls were to continue for the term of 21 years from the 24th June, 1778. The property in all lamps, lamp-posts, watch-houses, pumps, and materials for mending the streets, was to vest in the commissioners, who were empowered to order any street or road in the town to be paved, and the footways in the streets mentioned in the schedule to the act were as soon as possible to be paved with flag stones, and the horse ways with rag stones or pebbles. The streets mentioned in the schedule were to be first paved in the order in which they stand in the schedule. The commissioners were empowered to take any materials out of the lands known as the Northampton Fields. Lamps might be fixed to any buildings, heavy penalties being provided for those who broke or extinguished the same wilfully. The laying or repairing of the conduit pipes was to be done by the commissioners, but at the expense of the corporation. The inhabitants were directed to sweep the footpaths in front of their houses twice a week between the hours of 6 and 10 in the forenoon. The scavenger was to clean the streets once a week. An exemption was made for rubbish occasioned by building operations. Penalties were provided for any person wheeling barrows or driving cattle on the foot ways, or rolling a cask for the space of 40 yards; or killing or cutting up any animal in the public streets; or setting up any cock or fowl to be thrown at in the manner called cock-throwing; or exposing for sale any goods on the foot or carriage ways, or making any fires commonly called bonfires; or throwing any squib or rocket. No carriage or cart, with or without horses, was to be left in any road or street in the town longer than was necessary for unloading the same. The commissioners

were empowered to remove all porches, steps, posts, or projecting windows that might obstruct the ways. And to remove projecting signs or emblems affixed to houses, but pent houses or projecting windows in places of the breadth of ten yards or more were to remain. Persons might erect pales, posts, and chains, or other fences, provided they did not obstruct the road way. The act was not to affect certain tolls, then payable to the Earl of Pomfret, at Cotton End. Any penalties under this act might be recovered by a distress warrant under the hand and seal of any justice of the peace, and in case the distress was not paid the offender might be committed to the common gaol or house of correction in Northampton for any time not exceeding three months. Any person aggrieved by any thing done in pursuance of this act might appeal to the general quarter sessions of the peace holden in and for the county of Northampton. All acts touching the paving or repairing of highways or streets in the town were repealed.

The schedule to which this act refers.

- I. Bridge Street, with the South Quarter.
- II. Sheep Street, with North End.
- III. Abington Street.
- IV. Gold Street.
- V. The Drapery.
- VI. Mercer's Row.
- VII. The Market Hill.
- VIII. Saint Giles's Square, with the George Row.
- IX. The Wood Hill.
- X. Saint Giles's Street.

This Act was repealed by 5th & 6th William IV., c. 76.

18th George III. c. 77.

A Private Act.

1778.

An ACT for Dividing and Inclosing the Open and Common Fields, Common Pastures, Common Meadows, and other Commonable Lands and Grounds, within the Parishes of *Saint Giles, Saint Sepulchre, Saint Lawrence, and Saint Andrew*, in or near the Town of *Northampton*, in the County of *Northampton*, some or One of them, and which are commonly called or known by the Name of *Northampton Fields*.

The commissioners appointed under this act were William Pywell, of Barnwell Castle, in the county of Northampton, gentleman; John Sultzer, of Burton Overy, in the county of Leicester, gentleman; and James King, of Daventry, in the said county

of Northampton, gentleman. In conformity with the act the commissioners held their meetings, after having given proper notices thereof. They then caused a survey of the fields to be made, with regard to value, quantity, quality, and situation. And then set out, assigned, and allotted the fields; and set out the roads. These commissioners, at a meeting held at the George Inn, in the town of Northampton, signed and sealed their award, made by the authority of this act, on the 24th June, 1779. And the award was inrolled on the 10th November, 1779, by Charles Morgan, clerk of the peace for the county of Northampton. The original award is also at the County Hall, Northampton, being engrossed on eleven skins of parchment, each of which bears stamps to the value of 7s. 6d.

37th George III. c. 42.

One of the Local and Personal Acts declared public.

24TH APRIL, 1797.

An Act for altering and amending an Act, passed in the Eighteenth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, *An Act for paving, cleansing, lighting, and watching, the Town of Northampton, and for removing and preventing Encroachments, Obstructions, and Annoyances therein; and for continuing the Term of certain Tolls by the said Act granted.*

This act extended the period within which tolls might be levied for a further term of twenty-one years; added the names of new commissioners; exempted the inhabitants of certain villages south of the River Nene from payment of tolls; enacted that the building used as the then late County Hospital should be rated; and that the then new foot and carriage way leading out of St. Giles' street towards the new General Infirmary should be a public road. This act is a very short one. It was repealed by 5th and 6th William IV. c. 76.

40th George III. c. 73.

A Private Act.

1800.

An ACT for the Sale of *The George Inn*, in the Town of *Northampton*, vested in Trustees for charitable Purposes under the Will of *John Driden*, Esquire, deceased, and for investing the Money arising from the Sale thereof in the Purchase of Three Pounds per Centum Consolidated Bank Annuities, until a proper Purchase can be found, and in the mean Time for applying the Dividends and Annual Produce thereof for the same charitable Purposes.

The site of the George Inn belonged to John Driden, or Dryden, before 1675, and he erected the inn immediately after the great fire in that year. By his will, dated 2nd January, 1707-8, he gave the inn, with the appurtenances, to be settled as his executors, with the advice of the mayor and aldermen of Northampton, should think most convenient to charitable uses within the town. In 1806 the inn was accordingly sold, in conformity with the above-mentioned act, for the sum of £1500. The purchasers, by articles of agreement dated the 24th July, 1806, constituted themselves a Tontine company, consisting of 54 subscribers. These persons nominated 90 lives at £50 each; this sum amounted to £4500, which defrayed the cost of purchasing, repairing, altering, and furnishing the inn. When the lives were reduced to four, the property was, under the articles, to be divided. In 1873 there were 35 survivors; and in 1887 there were only four survivors, and the inn was therefore sold by auction for the sum of £10,550, and the proceeds divided.

54th George III. c. 193.

One of the Local and Personal Acts declared public.

14TH JULY, 1814.

An Act for better paving, lighting, watching, and improving the Town of *Northampton* and for taking down, widening, and rebuilding the Bridge over the River *Nine* or *Nen*, at the South Entrance of the said Town, and improving the Avenues to the said Bridge.

This act recited that the powers granted by the before-mentioned acts of the 18th and 37th George III. were insufficient; that the bridge over the river *Nen* in the south quarter, was very ancient, narrow, inconvenient, and dangerous, and that the piers thereof were constructed so as to impede the current of the river in times of flood. The said acts of 18th and 37th George III. were accordingly repealed. A large number of noblemen and gentlemen of the neighbourhood were appointed as commissioners to carry out the act, with power to add to their number; each commissioner to be qualified by being possessed of £40 a year from land or £800 from personal estate, and to be liable to a fine for acting without being qualified. The first meeting was to be held in the Guildhall on the second Monday after the passing of the act, and the subsequent meetings by adjournment, public notice thereof being given in the *Northampton Mercury*. The commissioners' powers were to be exercised by a majority of those present at any meeting, and the proceedings were to be entered in a book. Treasurers, clerks, collectors, and surveyors, with salaries might be appointed, who should deliver true accounts in writing of all things committed to them touching this act. In case any of the collectors of tolls or other officers died, or became incapable of acting, others were to be appointed in their stead, and their executors were to render account. The commissioners

might order any of the streets to be paved, and obtain stone or other materials out of the Northampton Fields or the parish of Hardingstone, having given notice to the occupiers of lands before they opened or worked pits. The expense of repairing or relaying any conduit pipes was to be paid by the corporation to the commissioners. Lamp irons might be fixed to any house or building, and penalties were provided for any persons damaging or extinguishing the lamps. The lamps, pavements, and all materials were vested in the commissioners. The occupiers of houses were to sweep the footways in front of the same, between the hours of six and ten in the morning once a week. The scavenger was to pass through the town once a week at least to collect the dirt and ashes, giving notice of his approach by bell, and having the words "Scavenger's Cart" painted in large letters on his cart. Penalty provided for not removing rubbish, which was not, however, to apply to rubbish occasioned by building. The commissioners were empowered to take down the south bridge, or any part of the same, and to erect a new good and substantial bridge of iron, stone, brick, or other materials of a width not less than 25 feet nor more than 40 feet, on or near the site of the south bridge and to deepen or make the river wider or narrower near the bridge. And the commissioners were required to make a temporary bridge before stopping the old one. The commissioners were empowered to treat for and purchase certain specified houses and dwellings situate in Bridge street and Cotton end, and two houses which projected in Abington street were also to be purchased. In case the owners of the specified houses would not treat, a jury was to be appointed to settle the amount of the recompense to be paid for the same. After the commissioners had paid the purchase money the houses and buildings were to vest in them, and the tenants were to quit on receiving six months' notice to do so. The act contained a provision that houses or buildings situate in streets not paved with flag-stones were only to pay two-thirds of the rate. The landlords and tenants of the houses were to bear the rate in equal portions. But the rate was not to be charged when the houses were unoccupied. The commissioners were empowered to raise the rate by distress under a justice's warrant, and to lower the rate if they thought proper. Provision was made for the rating of halls, gaols, churches, churchyards, and other buildings, and for payment of the rate. The commissioners were empowered to maintain the toll house in Cotton end, or erect a new one in the same place; and take tolls of all carriages, carts, or animals, with certain exceptions. The tolls were vested in the commissioners, who were empowered to recover the same, and to let the same to farm, and compound for the same. The property in the said bridge, toll house, lamps, and other things was vested in the commissioners. Money might be borrowed by the commissioners by mortgages of rates, or granting of annuities. Penalties were provided for any persons causing any annoyance by riding or driving on the footpaths, damaging the bridge, or any fences or posts, or drawing wood or stone over the bridge except on a wheeled carriage. And any persons taking any wheelbarrow on the footpath or rolling any cask for 40 yards, or killing animals or washing casks in the streets, or exposing goods for sale, making bonfires, firing guns, or throwing crackers or leaving carriages, carts, or animals unattended were also liable to penalties. The commissioners were empowered to remove any porch, projecting window, or sign.

But the commissioners might allow pent houses in streets of the breadth of ten yards to remain; and also palisadoes or posts and chains before houses. Penalties were to be recovered by distress by a justice's warrant. There is a provision for persons aggrieved to appeal to quarter sessions. The right of the Earl of Pomfret to the tolls at Cotton end, and all the rights of the lord of the manor of the town of Northampton were reserved. The tolls were to be continued for 21 years from the second Monday after the passing of the act.

This act was repealed by the special act of 6th and 7th Victoria, c. 78.

2nd & 3rd William IV. c. 64.

11TH JULY, 1832.

An Act to settle and describe the Divisions of Counties and the Limits of Cities and Boroughs in England and Wales so far as respects the Election of Members to serve in Parliament.

Northampton is mentioned in Schedule O to this act as "The old Borough of Northampton," but the boundaries were not changed. This act has been partially repealed by divers statutes.

5th & 6th William IV. c. 76.

9TH SEPTEMBER, 1835.

An Act to provide for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in *England* and *Wales*.

This statute was repealed by 45th and 46th Victoria, c. 50, s. 5. It is hereinbefore mentioned on page 186.

7th William IV. & 1st Victoria c. 78.

17TH JULY, 1837.

An Act to amend an Act for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in *England* and *Wales*.

This act was repealed by 45th and 46th Victoria, c. 50, s. 5.

7th William IV. & 1st Victoria c. 81.

17TH JULY, 1837.

An Act to provide for the levying of Rates in Boroughs and Towns having Municipal Corporations in *England* and *Wales*.

This act was repealed by 45th and 46th Victoria, c. 50, s. 5.

6th & 7th Victoria c. 78.

One of the Local Acts declared public.

28TH JULY, 1843.

An Act for better paving, lighting, cleansing and improving the Town and Borough of *Northampton*.

This is the principal special act under which the town is governed at the present time. It has been printed and published locally, and as it is readily accessible, it has not been thought necessary to give any abstract of it here.

24th Victoria c. 47.

One of the Local Acts.

7TH JUNE, 1861.

An Act to incorporate the *Northampton* Waterworks Company; to enable them to better supply the Town of *Northampton* and the several Townships and Places adjacent thereto with Water; and for other Purposes.

This local act incorporated the Northampton Waterworks Company, which had been originally established by deed dated the 6th October, 1837, and directed that the company should supply Northampton with water, and if desired, the parishes of *Abington*, *Kingsthorpe*, *Dallington*, *Duston*, *Hardingstone*, *Cotton End*, *Far Cotton*, and *Saint James's End*.

24th & 25th Victoria c. 75.

6TH AUGUST, 1861.

An Act for amending the Municipal Corporations Act.

This act was repealed by 45th and 46th Victoria, c. 50, s. 5.

31st & 32nd Victoria c. 46.

13TH JULY, 1868.

An Act to settle and describe the Limits of certain Boroughs and the Divisions of certain Counties in *England* and *Wales*, in so far as respects the Election of Members to serve in Parliament.

Northampton is named in the first schedule to this act as an old borough, and the boundanes are enlarged and defined.

33rd & 34th Victoria c. 45.

A Local Act.

20TH JUNE, 1870.

An Act to empower the corporation of Northampton to establish Markets and Fairs; and for other purposes.

This act gave the corporation of Northampton power to establish new markets for horses, cattle, and various commodities; and abolish, if they thought fit, the existing markets in the Drapery, and Mercers' row, and near the west end of All Saints' churchyard. It contains compulsory powers for purchase of land for five years from the date of the act; to raise money; to bargain with freemen for substituted rights of common; to make certain bye-laws as to (a) carriages plying for hire, (b) hawking provisions, (c) weights and measures.

34th & 35th Victoria c. 139.

A Local Act.

13TH JULY, 1871.

An Act for amending the Northampton Improvement Act, 1843, and for conferring on the Commissioners thereunder additional powers; and for other purposes.

This act amended the act of the 6th and 7th Victoria, c. 78, repealing many of the sections therein contained and substituting others. As it has also been printed locally, no abstract of it is given here.

45th & 46th Victoria c. 50.

18TH AUGUST, 1882.

An Act for consolidating with amendments, enactments relating to Municipal Corporations in England and Wales.

This is the general act, under which all boroughs throughout the country are governed at the present time.

45th & 46th Victoria c. 74.*A Local Act.*

3RD JULY, 1882.

An Act to extend the Powers of the Northampton Waterworks Company.

This act extended the limits within which the Waterworks company might supply water to all villages within a radius of about eight miles from Northampton; and in several particulars amended the act of 24th Victoria, c. 47.

45th & 46th Victoria c. 212.*A Local Act.*

10TH AUGUST, 1882.

An Act to vest in the Corporation of the Borough of Northampton the race ground or freemen's commons; to extinguish the freemen's rights of pasturage in certain other lands of the Corporation; to empower the Corporation to form public parks, and to make new street improvements; and for other purposes.

This act vested the freemen's commons or race ground containing 91a. 1r. 30p. and Cow meadow, and other meadows in the Corporation, appointed trustees, with power to provide for payment of annuities to freemen; and gave the corporation power to make parks and certain new streets.

47th & 48th Victoria c. 208.

A Local Act.

28TH JULY, 1884.

An Act to provide for a further supply of water to the town of Northampton and adjacent places and for other purposes.

This act was passed to enable the corporation to purchase the waterworks, and to construct the new Ravensthorpe reservoir to take the waters of the Coton brook, Ravensthorpe brook, and Teeton brook; to lay a line of pipes from the reservoir; and to supply the town and suburbs with water.

51st & 52nd Victoria c. 41.

13TH AUGUST, 1888.

An Act to amend the Laws relating to Local Government in England and Wales, and for other purposes connected therewith.

Northampton is named in the third schedule to this act as being an administrative county of itself, and a county borough.

55th & 56th Victoria c. 71.

Local Government Board's

Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 4) Act, 1892.

20TH JUNE, 1892.

An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Halifax, Milford, Northampton, Rochdale, Tenterden, and Wigan.

The order of the Local Government Board of the 13th April, 1892, contained in the schedule to this act, modified certain sections of the 6th and 7th Victoria, c. 78, and 34th and 35th Victoria, c. 139, and authorised the corporation to make bye-laws.

56th & 57th Victoria c. 229.*Local Government Board's**Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 13) Act, 1893.*

12TH SEPTEMBER, 1893.

An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Urban Sanitary Districts of Carshalton, Festiniog, Macclesfield, Northampton, Ossett, and Richmond (Surrey), and to the Rural Sanitary District of the Wakefield Union.

The order of the Local Government Board of the 18th May, 1893, contained in the schedule to this act, gave the corporation power to purchase lands in the parishes of Ecton, Cooknoe, and Whiston, for the purpose of using the same to extend the sewage farm situated near Ecton.

List of
Councils and Parliaments
holden at
Northampton.

Henry I.

- 1131 A great council was held by the king at Northampton, at which all the principal men of the nation were said to have been present.

At this council, the nobles all swore fealty to Maud, the empress, upon whom the right of succession had been settled by her father, the king.

Stephen.

- 1138 A council was held by the king, at which eight bishops, April 10 twelve abbots, and many of the nobility and others were present

At this council several promotions in the church were made in order to attach the clergy to the interest of the king.

- 1146 The king held a council, at which the Earl of Chester was deprived of all his castles.

Henry II.

- 1157 A great council was held by the king, many of the July 17 bishops, abbots, and principal persons of the kingdom being present.

The cause between Theobald, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Silvester, Abbot of St. Augustine at Canterbury, respecting the latter's profession of obedience to the former, was heard, in the presence of the bishops of Evreux, Bath, Norwich, Chichester, Lincoln, and Hereford.

- 1164 A great council was held in the hall of the castle, the Oct. 6 summonses were returnable that day. King Henry arrived late, but Archbishop Becket was punctual.

- Oct. 7 Becket made a complaint in the council against William de Courci.
- Oct. 8 The king gave sentence against Becket with regard to the affair of John Marescall.
- Oct. 9 The king demanded from Becket the repayment of all moneys advanced to the late chancellor in the expedition to Toulouse in 1159.
- Oct. 10 Archbishop Becket offered a fine of 2000 marks to the King in discharge of an alleged debt.
- Oct. 11 The day was devoted by the king to councils. Becket did Sunday not leave St. Andrew's Priory, where he was lodging.
- Oct. 12 Becket was said to be ill.
- Oct. 13 Becket performed mass at the altar of St. Stephen.
- Oct. 14 Becket left St. Andrew's clandestinely, and went to Eastry, near Sandwich.

The king, in the absence of Becket, pronounced sentence against him. And he then proceeded to treat of Welsh affairs in council.

- circa* The council of Northampton broke up, and the king left
Oct. 20 the town.

-
- 1176 The king and Prince Henry held a great council to
Jan. 26 consider and confirm the constitutions of Clarendon, and at this council several statutes known as the Assize of Northampton were passed.

William, King of Scots, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and several Scottish bishops, with others, attended this council. A quarrel ensued as to whether the Scottish bishops were to be subject to Canterbury or York, and the matter was referred to the Pope.

The king at this council divided the kingdom into six circuits, and appointed three justiciars to go on each circuit. The county of Northampton was comprised in the second (now the Midland) circuit; and Hugh de Gundeville, William Fitz Radulph, and William Basset were appointed for this circuit. Hugh de Gundeville was sheriff of this county and Hampshire; and William Fitz Radulph of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

At the conclusion of this council the king probably proceeded to Geddington.

- 1177 The king held a great council. Robert, Earl of Leicester,
circa and Hugh, Earl of Chester, were restored in blood and
Jan. 15 honours. William de Albini, son and heir of the late Earl
 of Arundel, was created Earl of Sussex. The Count of
 Flanders sent an embassy to this council, touching the
 marriage of his nieces, the daughters of Matthew, late
 Comte de Boulogne, and touching a certain agreement, with
 regard to the crusade, which the Archbishop of Canterbury
 and Bishop of Ely had made with him.

John.

- 1199 A great council was held by the earls and barons for
circa the purpose of taking an oath of fealty to King John.
April

Henry III.

- 1224 The king held a council, at which the archbishops,
circa bishops, earls, barons, and great nobles of the land were
June present.

-
- 1227 A council was held to settle the misunderstanding
 between the king and his barons, in consequence of the
 cancelling of the charter of the forests, which had been
 granted during the king's minority. A scutage was also
 assessed of three marcs for each knight's fee, by the advice
 of the earls and barons.

-
- 1265 or A council was held, at which the king, archbishops,
1266 bishops, abbots, priors, and all the great men of the nation
 were present, for the purpose of depriving the rebellious
 barons of their estates; and at this council, Othoboni,
 the Pope's legate, excommunicated the bishops and others
 who had taken part with Montford against the king.

Edward I.

1282-3 A parliament was summoned and held at Northampton
Jan. 20 for the counties south of Trent; and at York for the
counties north of Trent.

Four knights were sent from each county, and two men from each city, borough, and market town.

It does not appear that any statutes were passed at this time.

No returns can be found of the members of this parliament.

Edward II.

1307

Oct 13 Parliament summoned and held at this town.

The late king's funeral, and the coronation and marriage of Edward II., and the whole state of the nation were considered by the assembly.

By this parliament it was ordered that the base money, which in the former reign no one would take, should on pain of life and limb be current throughout the kingdom.

The representatives for the borough of Northampton were Johannes de Lungevill and Robertus de Bedeford.

The king did not leave the town until the 18th October.

Edward III.

1328

Apr. 24 A parliament was summoned to meet, and was holden during the three weeks of Easter. At this parliament the statute of Northampton, containing seventeen chapters, was passed. It was dated by the king at Northampton, on the 22nd June, 1328.

The representatives for the borough were Johannes le Waidour and Walterus de Burgo.

1336

June 25 A council was summoned to consider the proper measures to be taken against France, and the preparations for war.

1338 A parliament was summoned and held at this
July 26 town.

This assembly was convened to consider what measures should be taken against France, where preparations were then making for war.

This parliament broke up suddenly because the Scots commenced hostilities, and the king proceeded to Berwick to meet them.

No statutes appear to have been passed at this parliament.

The names of the representatives for the borough are not given.

Richard II.

1380 A parliament was summoned and held at Northampton.
Nov. 5 At this parliament the second statute of Northampton, containing two chapters, was passed. The supplies which had been granted for the service of the English Army in Brittany were also made good.

This was the last parliament that was ever summoned to meet within the walls of Northampton.

The names of the representatives for the borough are not recorded.

The Rev. C. H. Hartshorne in his "Historical Memorials of Northampton" mentions that councils were also held in 1190, 1194, 1223, 1265, and 1268, but without giving details.

Legal Notes
on the
Liber Custumarum Ville Norhamptoniæ,
BY
THOMAS GREEN, LL.B.

THE following notes, compiled by Mr. Thomas Green, explain those chapters of the *Liber Custumarum* which deal with real estate, namely, houses or land; and by the courtesy of the writer we are enabled to include these notes in this volume, feeling sure that they will be acceptable to all readers of the "Northampton Borough Records," skilled in our early land laws.

The headings of the chapters are those given in the table of contents by the transcriber of the fifteenth century (pp. 208-211). The full text of the chapters will be found at pp. 213-236.

LEGAL NOTES ON THE LIBER CUSTUMARUM
VILLÆ NORHAMPTONIÆ.

Cap° j° Off londes and tenementes bought aft̃ the vſage and the Cuſtomes of Norhampton and holden a yere and a day.

This chapter [set out at pp. 213-214] provides an extremely short period of limitation. Unchallenged possession for a year and a day from a purchase witnessed by the court, gives an absolute title subject to extension in case of disability to a year and a day from its cesser.

The concurrence of this provision with Professor Maitland's theory that the only possession that could become ownership by the lapse of a year and a day was a possession sanctioned by real or fictitious litigation, has been already pointed out by the writer in the "Law Quarterly Review."³⁵⁰ A question, however, arises whether the limitation prevailed against all the world, or only against those who had the *droits de retrait* mentioned in the next chapter. The word "reasonably," i.e., lawfully,³⁵¹ and the provision that the purchaser shall answer to no man "for non manere purchase that upon hym may be purchased," suggest on the first blush the narrower inference. The doubt-creating words may, however, be disposed of by treating "reasonably" as meaning merely in due form of law, and "purchase" as equivalent to *persecutio*, i.e., action or proceeding in general. The use of "purchase" in this wider sense will be found in chapters xxxi. and lvii. "Purchase," too, even in its modern popular meaning, was closely connected with the proceedings in actions in general. Kings sold their writs as they did their charters. The "nulli vendemus" of Magna Charta was overlaid by elaborate glosses,³⁵² and the statute of Westminster the second³⁵³ after the date of

³⁵⁰ L. Q. R. xiii., 116.

³⁵¹ Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i., 323.

³⁵² Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i., 174.

³⁵³ 13 Ed. i., St. 1., A.D. 1285.

Magna Charta, still speaks of the purchase of writs in the same sense in which a plaintiff may be said to purchase them at the present day, when he affixes stamps under the orders as to court fees. Add to these considerations that the period for asserting the *droits de retrait* is shorter than a year and a day, viz., four full courts, a space not covering more than fifteen weeks, and that the enforcement of such *droits* is generally signified throughout the custumal by the special term "asking a cate," and we may with some confidence assume that the year and a day limitation was a general bar, although probably the persons entitled to the *droits de retrait* would get the advantage of that portion of the chapter which deals with the case of disability.

Cap^o ij^o ffor to aske a Cate of londe and in whiche maner

This chapter [*vide* p. 214] recognises not only the peculiar custom of *droit de retrait lignager*³⁵⁴ but also of *droit de retrait féodal*,³⁵⁵ but the latter is to be exercised only secondarily and conditionally on there being "no man of the lynage," or as it is otherwise expressed "none of the blode." Both of these *droits* go the length not only of embracing inherited but even purchased realty, although the *droit de retrait lignager* is generally confined to the former.³⁵⁶

These rights of preëmption must be asserted within four full courts after the previous sale becomes one of constructive public knowledge, either through its original transaction in or subsequent notification to the court.

The process of enforcement is set out with some minuteness. The claimant appears in full court and asks for the cate. The buyer and seller are summoned to the next court. On default they are distrained to come to a second court. If their default continues till a third court the land is seized by the bailiffs into the king's hands, the claimant handing the price to the bailiffs under his seal. At the fourth court unless replevin has taken place, seisin of the land is delivered by the bailiffs to the claimant, saving to the buyer when he comes "his resonable answerys," i.e., accountings, presumably the price he has paid, and any proper outlay made by him before the claimant first asserted his right.

³⁵⁴ Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i., 325, 632, 670; ii., 246, 328.

³⁵⁵ Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i., 325, 632; ii., 311.

³⁵⁶ Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 328.

Provision is made for putting buyer and seller on oath as to the true price, but a difficulty suggests itself as to what price the claimant would have to deliver to the bailiffs if the parties persisted in absenting themselves. The passage is somewhat obscure, and it may be that the introduction of the "ii comenners thow thei ben no mo" covered such an emergency, for there is a somewhat analogous passage in cap. x. as to "the ii gode men if ther be no mo which shullen witnessyn."

The "chefe lorde" who has this sort of *jus emphyteuticarium* is according to the ancient normal construction⁸⁵⁷ the next immediate lord as will be seen by chapter lv., contrasting the "chefe lorde" with the "mor eyr (*i.e.*, higher) chefe lorde." The lord's preëmption is, however, barred if he takes "the sales" (in cap. xvi. called "the sellinges") *i.e.*, a fine on alienation.

What is meant by "the kyne" is not so clear. Is it one person or is it many as in Montenegro at the present day? Is it confined to males? How far does the limit of kinship *ad hoc* extend, and what is the order of priority? These questions, unfortunately, are left in some obscurity, for the custumal is as usual but a graft on details assumed to be known. Owing also to the destruction of the bulk of the borough records by the great fire of Northampton in 1675, extrinsic evidence is not at present readily obtainable. Chapters iii., ix., xi., xiii., xiv., afford the only intrinsic light. This much, however, is clear, that the transcriber of the fifteenth century regarded the heir as being the only person entitled, for in his table of contents [*vide* pp. 208 to 211 *ante*] he renders the "sone," "daughter," and "kynne" of the text of cap. iii. as "kin," the "kynne" of the text of cap. ix. as "right eyre," the "sone" and "kynne" of the text of cap. xiii. as "eyre," and the "kynne" of the text of cap. xiv. as "eyre."

Another interesting question arises with reference to the continuance of these *droits de retrait*. How happens it that in the fifteenth century these rights are still spoken of as living institutions? Probably when the customary right of alienation subject to these *droits* arose, the borough stood in advance of the main part of the kingdom, where alienation required the actual concurrence of both heir and lord. But free alienation as against the heir was

⁸⁵⁷ Pollock & Maitland, *Hist. Eng. Law*, i., 218.

subsequently reached by the common law by the beginning, and as against the lord by the end of the thirteenth century. The retention, therefore, after this date of the *droits* in the borough converted the quondam privileges into exceptional fetters. Of course any non-statutory change in the general custom of the kingdom would not affect the particular custom of the borough, but what is to be said as to the *droits de retrait* after the right of free alienation in general had been conferred by a statute,³⁵⁸ since a statute will over-reach everything that is inconsistent with it, custom included? The phenomenon can only be explicable on the principle that the statute, so far as its enabling provision was concerned, was construed as not intended to affect the borough custom. Such a construction would be prompted by various causes, amongst which may be enumerated—

(1.) The probable non-arrival at that early date at the conclusion affirmed almost hesitatingly centuries later by Coke³⁵⁹ and Scriven,³⁶⁰ that general statutes affect ancient demesne. Although many mesne lords might exist, yet the maxim was—"Once ancient demesne always ancient demesne," and the borough was, in origin at all events, too closely connected with the kingly control to permit of the extension of the power of alienation by a statute not affecting to bind the king. The case, in fact was similar to that of the *tenants in capite*, whose powers were held not to be increased by the statute.

(2.) The isolating effect of a succession of borough charters, confirmatory of customs at a date when the king's charter would practically rank with the king's statute.³⁶¹

(3.) The constantly recurring confirmations of Magna Charta containing an explicit reiteration of cap. ix. of that statute, as issued 9 Henry iii., which preserved to the city of London its ancient liberties and customs, and to all boroughs their liberties and free customs, and which provision is quoted by Lord Coke as

³⁵⁸ Quia Emptores, Westminster the Third, 18 Ed. i., St. 1, c. 1, A.D. 1290. Entitled in the parliament roll—Statutum regis de terris vendendis et emendis.

³⁵⁹ 4 Inst., 270.

³⁶⁰ Scriven on Copyholds, 692.

³⁶¹ The doctrine of *non-obstante* did not receive its death blow till the Bill of Rights, 1 Wm. & M. St. 2, c. 2, A.D. 1689. Moreover the incorporation of boroughs is yet an undoubted prerogative of the crown.

connected with the preservation in the city of London of the custom to alienate in mortmain despite the statutes of mortmain.³⁶² One of these confirmations of the Great Charter in conjunction with the *Charter of the Forest* occurred only seven years after *Quia Emptores*, and it directs that all justices, sheriffs, mayors, and other ministers shall allow the said charters to be pleaded before them in judgment in all their points.

(4.) The enactment of 42 Ed. iii. c. 1 that if any statute be made against either of these charters it shall be void, which enactment according to Lord Coke, operated as a repeal of any inconsistent statutes down to that date.³⁶³

Cap° iij° That the kyng [kin] or the chefe Lord maken grement with in viij daies of the tenement to hem graunted.

This chapter [p. 215] enables a man to free himself from the *droits de retrait* by an intimation out of Court of his intention to sell. The party receiving notice must then buy within eight days or such longer time as the intending vendor may concede.

The *droit de retrait lignager* is also shown to extend to an alienation, in consideration of a *quasi corody*.

Cap° iiij° Off dower of women astir the vŕages and the lawes of the toun of Norhampton and how thei shall be dowed.

This chapter [pp. 215-216], enabling a husband to endow his wife with money to the exoneration of his realty, appears to accord with the common law position in the time of Glanville, but which apparently had ceased in Littleton's day.³⁶⁴

The incapacity of the dowress to commit waste is also in keeping with the common law. Possibly its express mention may be due to the fact that until the statute of Marlborough³⁶⁵ it was a matter of controversy whether a conventional tenant for life,³⁶⁶ as distinguished from a life tenant in dower or by the

³⁶² 2 Inst., 21.

³⁶³ 1 Inst. 81.

³⁶⁴ Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 418, 419. Ranulf de Glanville was chief justiciar of England under Hen. ii. Littleton was a judge in the reign of Ed. iv.

³⁶⁵ 32 Hen. iii., A.D. 1267.

³⁶⁶ That is a tenant for life taking under a disposition of the parties. A tenant in dower or by the curtesy took by mere operation of law.

curtesy was liable for waste unless expressly debarred by the terms of the bargain.³⁶⁷ The wife who had arranged to receive a sum of money in lieu of her dower, and who held the land by "comaunde" of the heir till he was able to pay, might be regarded as in the position of a conventional tenant for life. At all events it was an abnormal position, and hence the desirability of the express prohibition in our customal.

It is not clear whether the chapter covers post-nuptial as well as pre-nuptial arrangements, but if so, the necessity of the enrolment of the indenture in "the Comyn rolle of dower" may be deemed effective, either as a fictitious judicial act, or as securing testimony of free concurrence on the part of the wife,³⁶⁸ and resembling the operation of a fine in the case of land subject to the rules of the common law.

Cap^o v^{to} Off knowliches of wyfes made of doweryes in the Court and of other Rightes that to hem myght fallen.

This chapter [p. 216] enables the wife on a sale by her husband of his own realty to quit claim by a curial acknowledgment entered on the "Commoun Rolle" of any right she may have by way of dower or otherwise. Again the process is analogous to a fine at the common law.

Cap vj^{to} If a man take a Wife that hath londe tenement or Rent of erytage or yeven in fre mariage how thei may hit sell.

This chapter [pp. 216-217] appears to enable husband and wife by joint dispositions to sell her inherited realty, or realty given with her in frankmarriage, and apparently expresses in somewhat confused language that the position is to be assimilated (liker) to that of a sale by the husband of his own realty, the object possibly being to give the *droits de retrait*. A second husband is not, however, to stand in the same position as the first for alienative purposes where there are children of the first marriage.

The absence of any curial ceremony on the part of the wife is probably due to the custom having arisen at a period when at the common law a fine was not essential to a conveyance of a

³⁶⁷ Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 9.

³⁶⁸ Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 410, note 4.

wife's lands, but her mere concurrence in the disposition was sufficient.³⁶⁹

The enabling custom as to lands given in frankmarriage does not appear to depend for its efficacy on the fulfilment of any condition that issue shall be born, as was the case with fees conditional at the common law, of which frankmarriage is treated as a species in the statute *De donis conditionalibus*.³⁷⁰

Why the borough custom retained its pristine vigor free from the prohibition against alienation, which by that statute fell on frankmarriage in common with other conditional fees at the common law³⁷¹ may be accounted for by the suggestions made under cap. ii., as to the survival of the *droits de retrait* notwithstanding the passing of *Quia Emptores*, and to these suggestions may be added the further one that since the borough custom permitted of alienation by the spouses independently of the birth of issue, there was no conditionality at all involved, and so the case was altogether outside a statute which, as its name imports, dealt only with conditional gifts. It may further be contended that the statute only operated as a declaration of the ancient law, into which abuses had crept, and consequently that the case was brought within the principle of Lord Coke³⁷² that if a statute in the negative be declarative of the ancient law, a custom may be prescribed against it as well as it may against the common law itself.

It will be observed that the custom does not extend to ordinary fees conditional at the common law. They being protected by no special custom, would doubtlessly fall under the restrictions imposed by the statute, seeing that those restrictions could not operate to the prejudice of the crown.

The statement that alienation may take place for poverty or without poverty, suggests a remoter period, when the then existing restraints on alienation were only relaxed under stress of circumstances equivalent to the *Echte Noth* of German law.³⁷³

The language of the whole chapter is by no means unambiguous. The reference to "giftes joynte" may mean that to allow of

³⁶⁹ Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 408.

³⁷⁰ Westminster the second, 13 Ed. i., St. 1, A.D. 1285. The statute to which indestructible entails owed their temporary efficacy.

³⁷¹ 1 Inst., 179.

³⁷² Co. Litt, 115a.

³⁷³ Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 311, 419.

alienation it was necessary that the gift should have been made expressly to husband and wife, so as to create an interest similar to that which after *De Donis* came to be known as an estate in special tail in the two spouses as distinguished from one in the wife alone. Littleton³⁷⁴ shows, however, that such a joint estate is the inherent position in a gift in frankmarriage. "In the same manner it is where tenements are given by one man to another with a wife (which is the daughter or cousin to the giver) in frankmarriage, the which gift hath an inheritance by these words (frankmarriage) annexed unto it, although it be not expressly said or rehearsed in the gift (that is to say) that the donees shall have the tenements to them and to their heires between them two begotten. And this is called especial taile because the issue of the second wife may not inherit." Coke³⁷⁵ also quotes a case in 5 Ed. iii., tending to show that whether the woman or the man be mentioned as the donee in frankmarriage the result is the same, and they both take the estate in special tail. There the gift was by Robert, after the death of his wife Agnes, to Stephen de la More, "*Habendum post mortem dictae Agnetis in liberum maritagium cum Johanna filia ejusdem Roberti*"; and it was held that both took in special tail, though Joan was not mentioned in the premises and only came in in the *habendum* with a *cum*. Still it is probable that the common law at the date of Littleton had altered its shape from that which it presented in the time when the Northampton custom arose, and that the earlier idea was that a gift to a woman in frankmarriage vested the inheritance in her alone, and not in her and her husband conjointly.³⁷⁶

Another ambiguity is produced by the reference to the husband's proper heritage or purchase. This may amount to a substantive statement that the spouses may together dispose of those subjects, but having regard to the provisions of the last chapter, no object seems to be served by such a statement, unless perchance it were intended to declare that if the wife concurred in a feoffment of the husband's lands the necessity for any curial acknowledgment on her part was dispensed with. Moreover the transcriber of the custumal in his head-note [p. 216] treats the present chapter as limited to the wife's lands.

³⁷⁴ 1 Inst., 21.

³⁷⁵ 1 Inst., 21.

³⁷⁶ Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 15, 17.

Another ambiguous clause is that which restrains the second husband from alienating the wife's heritage or frankmarriage if she has children by the first husband. This would be a curious provision if it means what it literally says, for the inferential hypothesis that it was in any way within the range of possibility for a husband alone to alienate his wife's realty, suggests traces of some dotal system where a husband could alienate a wife's immovables without her consent³⁷⁷ or at all events of an early period when the law had not been clearly settled and attempts were not infrequent on the part of husband to alienate the lands of the wife by his own act.³⁷⁸ If the provision only means that the second husband has not, in conjunction with his wife, the dispositive power of the first husband, if there happen to be children of the first marriage, it merely amounts to the probable position that the early common law prohibition of alienation of estates of inheritance in general, and of frankmarriage in particular³⁷⁹ had never been relaxed in the borough in the case of a mother who re-married. It is observable that if the provision now under discussion can be read positively as well as negatively, it suggests that if there be no issue of the first marriage the wife and the second husband can together alienate not only her heritage but even her frankmarriage held in the time of her first coverture, *i.e.*, that the absence of children of the first marriage gives the second husband the rights of the first husband as to alienation in conjunction with the wife.

Cap vij^o If a man take a Wyfe & hath Jffue and aftir þe dethe of that wife take anoþer wife and have also Jffue how her³⁸⁰ erytage & her purchaſſe ſhalbe porciunde a monge hem alle.

This chapter [p. 217] regulates the heirship to a man as between his children by two marriages, and it contains the first provision which authorises a gratuitous disposition. The children, male or

³⁷⁷ Pollock & Maitland, *Hist. Eng. Law*, ii., 398.

³⁷⁸ Pollock & Maitland, *Hist. Eng. Law*, ii., 407.

³⁷⁹ Pollock & Maitland's *Hist. Eng. Law*, ii., 16, where it is stated that under twelfth century law the estate of the donee in frankmarriage was deemed inalienable.

³⁸⁰ The text of the chapter shows that the provision relates to the *husband's* and not the wife's property.

female, of the first marriage, are to be preferred to children of a second marriage as heirs to purchased realty, but there is absolute liberty to give or devise it to the children of the second marriage "etc."³⁸¹ A similar preference in heirship is given to the first children in respect of inherited realty held by the father in the time of the first marriage, but no authority is conferred to dispose of this in favour of the second children. The provision as to descent is peculiar, *e.g.*, a daughter of the first marriage would exclude a son of the second. It is indeed questionable whether (subject to the preference of the first family) the language does not point to the existence of a custom of *parage* and parage of an unusual kind, *viz.*, equal distribution among all the children, male and female. Such a custom existed at Wareham, Taunton, and Exeter,³⁸² and there is a passage from the Anglo-Norman laws, known as the *Leges Willielmi*, tending to suggest the general prevalence of such a rule, "*Si homo mortuus sine devise se departent les enfans l'erite entre sei per uuel*"—[If a man dies without devise let his children divide the inheritance equally.³⁸³] By the end, however, of Hen. iii., the common law as to descent had attained the main features which it now presents, one of them being the exclusion of females by males of equal degree, and the existence of primogeniture among males.³⁸⁴ The customs referred to in this chapter, as well as those mentioned in chapters xi. and xiii., doubtlessly arose before Hen. ii., in whose reign the common law had arrived at the point that *inter vivos* alienation, gratuitous or otherwise, of the whole realty, whether inherited or purchased, could take place even to a stranger as against the heir, but testamentary disposition, which had long struggled for existence, was forbidden altogether.³⁸⁵

Cap° viij° How the husbonde shall holde the free Mariage of his wiffe by the Curtaffy of Jnglond.

The provision contained in this chapter [p. 217] resembles that of the common law as to the husband's curtesy in his wife's estate

³⁸¹ Vide Chapters xi. and xiii. for expansions of this "etc."

³⁸² Pollock & Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 259.

³⁸³ Pollock & Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 265.

³⁸⁴ Pollock & Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 257.

³⁸⁵ Pollock & Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 247.

in fee simple, in fee conditional at the common law, or frank-marriage.³⁸⁶ If he had issue by her born alive, capable of inheriting the estate of inheritance in question, he acquired an estate for his whole life in lieu of an interest which terminated with the coverture. The prohibition of gift, sale, or mortgage by a mere tenant by the curtesy points to this provision having originated at a date when no very precise notions had been reached as to the husband's rights over the wife's realty. The curious demand for a cry being heard within the house is explained in Edward the First's day, as the resultant of males being the only credible witnesses in the king's courts, and their natural absence from a birth-chamber.³⁸⁷

The forty days or quarantine allowed to the husband, is similar to that allowed to the widow by Magna Charta, in respect of her occupation of the principal house after the death of her husband.

The custumal only mentions curtesy in connection with frank-marriage, and in this respect resembles Glanville's treatment. This may be due to the desire to allay doubt, for the law as to the nature of frankmarriage was at one time anything but clear, and gave rise to much litigation in the interval between Glanville and Bracton.³⁸⁸ The Scottish law even of to-day gives curtesy only in respect of the wife's inherited lands.³⁸⁹

Cap° ix° How a man may londe tenement or Rente laye to wed with owten Challenge of Right Eyre or of chefe lords.

This chapter provides a means whereby the *droit de retrait lignager* or the *droit de retrait féodal* may be barred by a proposing vendor or mortgagor offering in the presence of witnesses to sell or mortgage to the person entitled to the right. This provision differs from that in cap. iii. in extending to mortgages as well as sales, and in its operation being dependent on an immediate refusal.

³⁸⁶ At least this was the case as to frankmarriage in Glanville's day. Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 412, 414.

³⁸⁷ Pollock and Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 415.

³⁸⁸ Bracton was a judge under Hen. iii.

³⁸⁹ Pollock and Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 16, 413, 414, 418.

Cap° x° If the wardes of Rentes ovir Rennen of tenement in Norhampton and Recovere he shall haue be warde.

This chapter [pp. 218-219] provides remedy where rent is in arrear. The common law in the thirteenth century was extremely reluctant to make non-performance of services a cause of forfeiture of the tenement. The lord's remedies were—(1) Action in the king's court of a real character, whereby the rent was indirectly obtained. (2) Distress. (3) Redeemable seizure of the land if the lord had a court of his own to enable seizure. It was not till two statutes of Ed. I.³⁹⁰ gave the action *quod cessavit intra biennium* borrowed directly from the canon law and indirectly from the Emphyteutic remedy of the civil law that an ejectment could be obtained in the king's court when default in performance of services had continued for two years.³⁹¹ The custom of Northampton seems to have been equally considerate. The tenant prevents his lord distraining for rent by shutting up the house. The court, after ordering an official inspection, awards the lord entry by the bailiffs through the usual accesses, in order that he may distrain the doors and windows, and any non-fixtures. If the distress (in those days not saleable) fails to bring the tenant to book, the court orders another official view, to see if there is anything else which may be distrained, and on the viewers reporting in the negative the court awards the lord possession for a year and a day, and that the doors and windows be hung again. If that time elapses without satisfaction being made, the court accords him permission to let and repair the premises, but in order that the tenant may not be improved out of his inheritance, a cheap class of materials only is to be used. The tenant or his heir may require an account, and may redeem on payment of arrears and expenses. If the lord refuses to accept the tender, the court will order him to do so, and failing compliance will re-award possession. Although the chapter starts with the supposition that the tenant has prevented distress by shutting up the house, yet, doubtlessly, that portion of the remedy which is given on insufficiency of distress would be available in any case, whether the house had been closed or not. The distraining the doors and windows transcends the power of a landlord of the

³⁹⁰ Stat. Glouc., c. 4. Stat. Westm., ii., c. 21.

³⁹¹ Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i., 333.

present day. It was probably intended to make the tenant as uncomfortable as possible, and so drive him to make his peace. The doors and windows are contemplated as capable of being easily re-hung, but the limit of the distraining power is drawn at things "faste in the erthe."

Cap° xj° How aman may selle his londe tenement or Rent purchafed alle though his Eyre him wolde w'teyn.

This chapter [p. 219] provides that if a man has realty of heritage as well as of purchase, he may give or sell the latter to anybody he pleases, regardless of his heir. This cuts into the heir's rights in two ways. It deprives him of his *droit de retrait* on sale, and also of his right to object to gratuitous dispositions, when made outside certain narrow limits. The existence of an heir, even though incapable of objecting, would, too, deprive the lord of his *droit de retrait*, for that is dependent on there being none of the blood.

Cap° xij° How aman may gefe to his oon doughter a parte of his herytage or of his purchas withoute gecynfeyng of Eyre or of his chefe lorde.

The custom embodied in this chapter [p. 220] is the only one authorising a disposition of inherited realty otherwise than for pecuniary or quasi-pecuniary consideration. It permits part—probably a reasonable part³⁹²—of either inherited or purchased realty to be given to daughters in frankmarriage, without any right on the part of lord or heir to object. The peculiarities of this tenure or estate will be found in Pollock & Maitland's History of English Law.³⁹³ The custom is limited to gifts to daughters, but at the common law gifts to cousins, and even to sons in frankmarriage were not unknown.³⁹⁴ The custom mentions that the lord's service is to be saved, and in this resembled the common law, which did not prejudice the right of the lord to resort to any part of the land for his services, but bound the

³⁹² The Norman custom was one-third part. Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 15.

³⁹³ Vol. ii., 15, 17.

³⁹⁴ 1 Inst., 22.

donor and his heirs to acquit the donee, and the donees issue from such forinsec services till the fourth degree of consanguinity had been passed.

We are now in a position to summarise roughly the extent of the alienative power prevailing as to fee simple estates in the borough as disclosed by the custumal.

A man could

- I. As to both purchased and inherited realty
 - (1.) Sell and mortgage to anybody, subject to the *droits de retrait lignager* and *féodal*.
 - (2.) Give part to daughters in frankmarriage.
- II. As to purchased realty.
 - (1.) Give or devise to children of a second marriage.
 - (2.) Give or sell to anybody, free from any *droit de retrait*, provided the alienor has inherited lands

It has already been pointed out how the conservation of whilom privileges might cause a borough to lag behind the main part of the kingdom when the common law attained to a higher freedom than the privileges had ever conferred. The custumal shows this disadvantageous result hampering Northampton in the fifteenth century, although the common law had nearly two centuries before shaken off all restraints in favour of lord and heir imposed on *inter vivos* alienation of ordinary fee simple estates. The attainment by the borough of a level with the rest of the realm would at the latest be produced by the operation of statute 32 Hen. viii., c. 1, explained by 34 and 35 Hen. viii., c. 5, which conferred on fee simple tenants in socage or in the nature of socage³⁹⁵ the fullest alienative power, both *inter vivos* and by will. The terms of these statutes show a clear intention to bind the crown, and Lord Coke treats them as extending to boroughs subject to customary law.³⁹⁶

Cap^o xiiij^o That no deceyte be where thorough the Eyre or the chefe lorde be for barred of her Right that toucheth free tenement.

Cap. ix shows that the kin and the lord have the preferential right to make the advance where a man desires to mortgage (leyen

³⁹⁵ The Northampton tenure was burgage, and Littleton speaking of burgage says, "Et tel tenure nest forsque tenure en socage" [And such tenure is but tenure in socage]. 1 Inst., 109.

³⁹⁶ 1 Inst., 115.

to wedde). The present chapter [p. 220] affords the opportunity of asserting the right. It also strikes at evasion of the *droits de retrait* by a demise of such a character as practically to amount to a sale or mortgage. It is observable that the custumal contains no such protective provision as against subinfeudation in fee. Obviously, a collusive subinfeudation at a nominal service would be equally subversive of the *droits de retrait*. It is apprehended that the reason of the omission is that though the enabling provision of *Quia Emptores* did not apply to the borough,³⁹⁷ yet it was otherwise with the restrictive provision of that statute prohibiting subinfeudation, and that subinfeudation thereafter became no longer possible. A similar theory as to the somewhat resembling case of *tenants in capite*, is suggested in Mr. Challis' work on the law of real property.³⁹⁸ Subinfeudation would not, of course, be saved on the ground of particular custom, for it had been the general custom of the realm.

Cap° xv° Off hem that Sofferen her rente too palleñ A yere or too or thre in diheritfouñ of her tenaunte.

We get in this chapter [pp. 220-221] an early analogue of recent statutory provisions limiting a landlord's right of distress. In the case provided for by the chapter the tenement is either empty, or occupied by persons other than the demesne freeholder. The lord quietly lets the rent due from the freeholder get into arrear without reminding the latter of the fact. The freeholder may, from absence or otherwise, be under the belief that the rent is being kept down by occupants. At least the lord sleeps on his rights, and he is penalised with the loss of all his rent beyond a year. The case will be otherwise if he has required the freeholder to pay, and the latter has begged time in the presence of witnesses.

Cap° xvj° Off Rentes and Relevés to be hadde aftir the viages the touñ of Norhampton.

This chapter [p. 221] provides for two things, payment of relief on death, and fyne (sellynges) on alienation. Though

³⁹⁷ Vide ante under cap. ii.

³⁹⁸ Challis on real property, p. 20.

Bracton doubted whether as to socage tenure, of which burgage is a species, anything could properly be called a relief, although *quædam præstatio* was due.³⁹⁹ The object of paying one relief if several tenements are held of the same lord is not very apparent, for doubtless the one relief would be the aggregate of the individual reliefs. The provision may have originated at a time when relief (*relevatio*) entailed a ceremony, and till relief the lord was entitled to take and hold possession. The compression of all the ceremonies into one would have a tendency to prevent all undue delays to the tenants' detriment, to say nothing of the multiplication of court fees. The lord is only entitled to take the fine on alienation if he does not assert his right of preëmption.

It is noticeable that relief and fine are treated as payable in respect of rents held by one man of another by a rent service or vested in one man by the grant of another. It is presumed that the position is that denoted in Pollock & Maitland's History of English Law,⁴⁰⁰ viz., that a man who is entitled to a rent service from a terretenant grants it to a third person, reserving, however, all the other services of the terretenant. On the death or alienation of the terretenant the grantee of the rent is then naturally the proper person to receive the relief or the fine.

When reliefs and fines on alienation in the borough became obsolete is a matter of conjecture. Nothing in the statutes⁴⁰¹ of 32 Hen. viii., c. 1, and 34 and 35 Hen. viii., c. 5, affects them, nor does the 12 Car. ii., c. 24.⁴⁰² except in so far as any fines for alienation might be due to the crown. Their obsolescence is doubtlessly due to natural causes, such as the passing into oblivion of mesne lordships and petty services to which no practical value continued attached.

Cap° xvij° Off noyefauunce of wallez hegges or gotters wel dykekyngē or of other lyked thing to neyghbores.

This chapter [p. 221] is noteworthy as presenting an admirably short remedy for matters of trifling value, but involving disproportionate expense if litigated at length in the ordinary course.

³⁹⁹ Pollock and Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i., 289.

⁴⁰⁰ Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 129.

⁴⁰¹ Quoted under chapter xiii. ante.

⁴⁰² The statute whereby, with minor exceptions, all tenures were turned into free and common socage, and various burdens affecting real property abolished.

Cap° xxxj° That no man of the toun of Norhampton ne emplede othir owte of the fraunchise by no man⁹ purchafe.

This chapter [p. 226], compelling burgesses to sue one another in the borough court, subject to the right to resort elsewhere if justice be denied, supports the proposition advanced in the comments under cap. i. that "purchase" in that chapter means *persecutio*, i.e., action or proceeding in general, and not merely the *droits de retrait*.

Cap° l° What aman shall paie to the profite of the toun for londe and tenement³ bought in the same toun.

This chapter [p. 231] shows that the advalorem duty now payable on conveyances of ten shillings in the £100 would only equal three-fifths of the old tax, assuming the ratios of the values of money and land were identical at the two periods.

The right to impose the tax would be included in the concession by Ric. i. to the burgesses of the *firma burgi*, which was a complex of rights—a group of sources of revenue.⁴⁰³ As the king had at this early date not lost his right to tallage his boroughs he could permit them to tallage themselves.⁴⁰⁴

Cap° liij° What power the chefe lorde hath of tenement that his tenaunt holte of hym in ffee within the ffraunchise of Norhampton.

This chapter [pp. 232-233] provides for the following state of affairs. The lord complains to the bailiffs that his tenant in fee is wasting or destroying his tenement to the risk of the rent. The bailiffs thereupon attach anything in the nature of tenemental material found on the premises, or bought or taken therefrom. The former they deliver to the lord to be held as distress for arrears of rent or other services. The latter attachment awaits the decision of the court. The tenant may get his property again on satisfying the arrears, and giving sufficient security for making good the dilapidations. The expression "tymbren it up agayne"

⁴⁰³ Pollock & Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law, i., 635.

⁴⁰⁴ Pollock & Maitland's Hist. Eng. Law, i., 647.

points to that early period when for the most part houses were constructed of wood. If there has been any unrightful sale the buyer as well as the seller is to be grievously amerced. A charge of theft was, of course, out of the question, for what was taken away was part of the freehold, and the property would rather be in the tenant than the lord. The passage "if any man be fessed of londe tenement or rente and he tho thonges to him fessed wolde: wasten or distryuen," is peculiar so far as a rent is concerned, for though the expression enfeofed of a rent in the sense of being seised of it is accurate enough,⁴⁰⁵ yet it is difficult to see how a rent could be wasted or destroyed by the owner of it to the detriment of a chief lord. The peculiarity of expression may be accounted for by the fact that the wasting of the physical tenement out of which a rent issues operates indirectly as a waste of the rent. If the rent so wasted is one held in mesne by service as mentioned in cap xvi., and the mesne holder has got into possession of the physical tenement for default of payment the language is explained. The remedy given by the chapter presents some analogy to the process of *pignoris capio* when employed in respect of *damnum infectum* in the Roman law, though the object to be attained was to a certain extent disparate.

Cap^o lv^o If aman holde atnement in c²teyne of anothir And the tenement be charged to anothir more souereyn chese And that ilke mene is holden him to aguyten and Resseyue the syluer of his tenaunt.

The position denoted in this chapter [p 233] is that a superior lord distrains on the demesne tenant who has performed his due and fixed service to the mesne lord. The court on complaint awards that demand shall be made of the mesne lord in the presence of witnesses that he should exonerate the complainant. Failing compliance the court will award that the complainant shall hold *nu à nu* of the superior lord till the mesne lord performs his duty. The remedy is analogous to that afforded by the *Breve de Medio*, which was in general use in the thirteenth century.⁴⁰⁶

⁴⁰⁵ Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, ii., 131.

⁴⁰⁶ Pollock & Maitland, Hist. Eng. Law, i., 217.

In the present chapter, as also in chapters x., xv., and liiii., will be found in varying aspects, the fundamental idea of the early law that in respect of a freehold rent the land itself was the debtor, and that there was no power to enforce payment or indemnity in respect of such rent by any remedy in the shape of an action *in personam* based upon a personal obligation. All the processes referred to in these chapters are of a purely real and cumbersome character. In chapter x. the lord may distrain for the rent, and as an ultimate remedy get possession of the land, but though the distress and the possession are mere pledges in both cases, no suggestion of the possibility of any personal remedy is given in case the tenant chooses to remain recalcitrant and leave the pledges on the lord's hands. In chapter xv. too the only remedy contemplated is that of distress. The lord by his negligence is to lose all rent except that accruing within a year of the period when he chooses to distrain. It says nothing about any similar deprivation in a personal action, for no personal action was deemed possible. Again in chapter liiii., where there is peril to the rent by the waste or destruction of the tenement, we get as the remedy of the lord attachment of the tenemental property only. And lastly, in the present chapter the only relief the injured terretenant can get is to be placed in immediate relation with the superior lord till the mesne lord exonerates him from the damages sustained by the non-performance of the superior service.

In Pollock & Maitland's *History of English Law*,⁴⁰⁷ will be found a full description of the position. That these matters are not of mere antiquarian interest is shown by the recent case of *re Herbage Rents Greenwich*.⁴⁰⁸

Cap^o lvij^o The ffresh fors of the toun of Northampton Alls well for pore as for Riche.

The process mentioned in this chapter [pp. 234-235] appears to supply a customary equivalent for the assizes of *Novel Disseisin* and *Mort d'Ancestor*. It consists in the immediate seizure by the bailiffs into the king's hands, and a subsequent adjudication

⁴⁰⁷ Pollock & Maitland, *Hist. Eng. Law*, 123-134.

⁴⁰⁸ '96 2 Ch 811. See also the article by Mr. T. Cyprian Williams on Landowners' liability to pay Rent charges in fee, xiii., *Law Quarterly Review*, 288.

of seisin by the court to the claimant who has the best *prima facie* title, the other claimant being left to his remedy by action if he is dissatisfied.

Although no mention is made of *Disseisin* it can scarcely be supposed that this a more flagrant act involving a breach of the peace with amercement, would be left with a less summary remedy than *Abatement* and *Intrusion*, and it is therefore possible that *Intrusion* in the custumal may have been intended to embrace a wider class of cases than is usually technically associated with that term. The fact that hue and cry is raised tends to suggest the idea that an act of some apparent illegality was being committed, nor is it to be forgotten that Northampton was *ancient demesne*,⁴⁰⁹ and that *Intrusion* has a special meaning with reference to lands directly connected with the crown.⁴¹⁰ The heading given by the transcriber of the chapter lends some countenance to this view, for he speaks of fresh force, a term peculiarly applicable to *Disseisin* recently perpetrated.

⁴⁰⁹ i.e., in the demesne of the crown in the reign of Edward the Confessor and William the Conqueror, and in Domesday Book denominated *Terra Regis Edwards* or *Terra Regis*.

⁴¹⁰ Wharton's Law Dictionary. Title *Intrusion*.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.

Page 3. Note 3. *For Brands read Brando.*

- .. 25. Line 4 of the Latin. *For null⁹ read null⁹.*
- .. 38. Line 6. *For folio 110b read folio 105a.*
- .. 54. The date of Letters Patent. *For 1284 read 1285.*
- .. 55. Line 12. *For 29th August read 24th June.*
- .. 61. The date of Pleas of the Crown. *For 1330 read 1329.*
- .. 61. Line 3 from bottom. *For 1330 read 1329.*
- .. 62. Line 3. *For Kingsbroth read Kingsbooth.*
- .. 64. The date of Letters Patent. *For 1330 read 1329.*
- .. 93. Line 5 from bottom. *For 1478-9 read 1477-8.*
- .. 116. The date of Letters Patent. *For 1541 read 1547.*
- .. 124. Line 7 from the bottom. *For January 1st read September 8th.*
- .. 124. Line 2 from the bottom. *For December 27th read July 25th.*
- .. 134. Line 6. *For January 1st read September 8th.*
- .. 134. Line 11. *For December 27th read July 25th.*
- .. 141. Line 18. *For January 1st read September 8th.*
- .. 141. Line 23. *For December 27th read July 25th.*
- .. 145. Note 184, line 1. *For Maundaunt read Mordaunt.*
- .. 145. Note 184, line 8. *For Earl Maudaunt read The Earl of Peterborough.*
- .. 195. Line 6. *For fourpence read tenpence.*
- .. 195. Line 8. *For eightpence read elevenpence.*

The original claim was for tenpence toll on waggons, and elevenpence on beast. These sums were reduced during the trial, and when the Lord Chief Justice summed up, the sums were fourpence and eightpence respectively.

- .. 202. Note 197. *For 1487 read 1486-7.*
- .. 203. Line 9 from bottom. *For faille read faille.*
- .. 215. The headings of the third and fourth chapters should be transposed.
 And for "King or Chief Lord" read "Kin or Chief Lord."
- .. 222. Note 205. Slapton is an error in the *Liber* for Slipton, a small village near Thrapston. See note on page 62.
- .. 226. The heading of Chapter xxxj. should be—Against Impleading out of the Franchise.
- .. 226. The heading of Chapter xxxij. should be—As to Entry on the Roll of the Decimer or Doziner.
- .. 228. The heading of Chapter xxxix should be—Concerning Covins or Frauds.
- .. 230-1. The headings of Chapters xlvij. and liij. should be—Of Vendors of Wode.
- .. 232. The heading of Chapter liij. should be—Concerning Remedy for Waste committed to the detriment of the Lord.

Page 261. Note 228. Add date, 1395-6.

" 274. Note 243. *For 1442-3 read 1422-3.*

" 356. The heading of the chapter. *For Shoemakers read Shearers or Cloth-workers.*

" 356. Note 302. The Priory of the Carmelites stood at the angle of Wood street and Abington street, opposite to St. George's Hall.

" 430. Note 348. George Coldwell was town clerk from 1592 to 1618.

" 430. Note 349. Tobias Coldwell was town clerk from 1618 to 1654.

The dates of office of the various mayors mentioned in this volume, were taken from the shields hanging in the Town Hall. Many of these, however, are found to be inaccurate; and, accordingly, the following corrections have been made from the revised list printed in the second volume:—

Note 193. John Astley was mayor in 1487-8.

Notes 144, 237, 257, 262, 263, 264. William Austyn in 1459-60, 1467-8, and 1475-6.

" 279, 295. John Balgey in 1556-7 and 1565-6.

Note 289. John Browne in 1549-50.

" 261. John Butler in 1465-6.

" 305. Roger Butler 1494-5.

Notes 322, 325. John Clarke in 1469-70 and 1482-3.

Note 265. William Flower in 1489-90.

" 179. John Friend was mayor for the second time during the latter part of 1668, in lieu of 1669.

Notes 317, 321, 323, 324, 326. Henry Humphry in 1486-7, 1491-2, 1498-9, and 1507-8.

" 236, 260, 334. Thomas Hunt in 1456-7, 1464-5, 1472-3, and 1480-1.

Note 346. Richard Johnson in 1544-5.

" 155. William Lynde in 1483-4.

" 208. John Longvile in 1334-5 and 1335-6.

" 335. John Motte in 1526-7 and 1537-8.

" 290. Henry Neale in 1539-40 and 1552-3.

" 229. John Parvin in 1509-10 and 1524-5.

" 190. George Peach in 1836-7 and 1837-8.

Notes 254, 259. William Peryn in 1463-4.

" 273, 344. John Saxby in 1508-9, 1519-20, and 1531-2.

Note 281. John Saye or Sakes in 1504-5.

" 275. John Smith in 1511-2.

" 255. John Walker in 1515-6.

" 296. Lawrence Washington in 1545-6.

" 277. Richard Whelar in 1518-9.

" 297. Richard Wilkinson in 1546-7.

Page 453. *Add.* At a Council held at Northampton in 1211 or 1212, the Pope's Legate, Cardinal Pandulph, excommunicated King John.

GLOSSARY.

- Abatement**, 234, where a person dies possessed of an inheritance, and before the heir or the devisee can enter, a stranger who has no right comes in and takes possession of the freehold, he is said to take by abatement.
- Abull**, 345, able or strong.
- Accon reall**, 335, an action real, was one brought to recover freehold possession of lands, houses, or other hereditaments.
- Accon personal**, 335, an action personal was one brought to recover a debt or a personal duty or damages in lieu thereof, or for some injury to the person or property.
- Accoitomed**, 308, accustomed.
- Acouaunde**, 304, a concord, or agreement.
- Acquittance of murder**, 27, the amercement or fine leviable on a district for that offence.
- Acyses, affices**, 424, assizes, or the right to set or fix the quantity and price of articles sold.
- Addicyon**, 305, addition.
- Admitte me**, 399, betake myself, in order to seek sanctuary again.
- Adoo**, 425, to do, or meddle with.
- Adrad**, 422, frightened, or put in fear.
- Afered**, 375, instructed, from the Anglo-Norman; or perhaps measured or ascertained.
- Affode**, 398, a flood or rising tide.
- Affynyte**, 373, relationship by marriage.
- Ageynst**, 393, against.
- Ageyns**, 233, *see* Pursue.
- Aguytyn**, 211, acquit.
- Aid**, 8, an aid, under the feudal law, was a subsidy granted by the tenant to the king or to his chief lord for ransoming his person, for knighting his eldest son, or for marrying his eldest daughter. From the French aide.
- Aicll**, 420, grandfather. From the Anglo-Norman.
- Ainged**, 420, adjudged.
- All halous**, 305, All Hallows' or All Saints' day, 1st November.
- All Seyntis**, 378, all the saints.
- Alls well**, 211, as well.
- All Holowen Chirche**, 225, All Saints' Church, standing in the centre of the town, and much referred to in the municipal records of the borough.
- Allonly**, 266, exclusively.
- Alonly**, 395, only.
- Alyned**, 209, withdrawn or escaped. From the French Allonger.
- Allman**, 421, all manner.
- Allman's wife**, 201, all manner of ways.
- Als**, 418, likewise, or as.
- Alweie**, 427, always.
- Amerceament**, 27, a pecuniary fine inflicted at the discretion or mercy of a court. From the French merci. *Pl.* Amercyamentis.
- Amerciad**, 223, fined.
- Amendyn**, 219, repairing.
- Anctecteucly**, 423, authoritatively, or perhaps additionally.
- Andag**, 419, Anjou.
- An husteng**, 420, one hustings.
- Annoynace**, 394, annoyance.
- Anon right**, 418, immediately, or at once.
- Anon**, 391, then.
- A nothe**, 337, another.
- Anotable**, 356, a great.
- Anoyable thyngis**, 335, things causing annoyance or damage.
- Anempst**, 204, concerning.
- Answeren**, 417, answer, or be responsible for.
- Apertly**, 427, without concealment, or openly.
- Apperith**, 339, appeareth.
- Appteyng**, 338, appertaining.
- Appropurtees**, 308, places appropriated.
- Apetycion**, 265, a petition.
- Appendaut**, 267, hanging attached by a cord or strip of parchment.
- Apceyned**, 232, apprised thereof.
- A quyte a geyns**, 233, acquit against.
- Arected**, 313, arrected, 203, imputed.

- Areyned, 418, arraigned or indicted.
 Aryle, 377, rise.
 Armure, 418, armour.
 Arrurages, 219, 233, arrears.
 Ailayd, 232, after it has been tested.
 Ailayour, 232, assayer or tester.
 Aibyd, 330, probably asked.
 Aseall, 306, a seal.
 Assarts, 21, parts of the forest where trees or underwood had been destroyed.
 Assize of demesne, 16, this was probably an assize of ancient demesne, where the king's dues were enforced.
 Assices, 424. Assie, 211, Assis, 344. *see* Acyces.
 Asoynes, 392, essoins, or excuses for delaying a suit. Here used for "but one excuse."
 Astelwode, 74, astyl, a thin board or lath, or piece of wooden log-cleft for burning.
 Astate, 210, interest.
 Atteynt, 402, atteynte, 272, guilty, tried and convicted.
 Atturney, 234, attorney or agent.
 Auncell, 375 a method of weighing, by which the fixed weight was at one end of the beam and the hook or pan at the other; the beam was balanced across the hand of the vendor, and by changing the place of his hand he was enabled to weigh diverse amounts. This auncell weight, being capable of great deceit, was forbidden by the statutes 25 Ed. III., stat. 5 c. 9, and 34 Ed. III. c. 5.
 Auditoures, 272, auditors.
 Audepeyle, 376, avoirdupois.
 Averreyn, 218, affirm, or prove.
 Avise, 269, advice.
 Aventours, 210, comers, that is substitutes.
 Availe, avayle, 308, awayle, ayayle, 377, profit, or advantage.
 Awner, 303, owner.
 Axith no3t, 214, asketh not.
 Ayenst, 354, against.
 Aylesham, linen of, 60, Aylsham, a market town in Norfolk, which was, during the reigns of Edward II. and III., the chief seat in the country for the manufacture of linens, then called "Aylsham Webs."
 Ayme of honde, 348, guess of hand.
 Ayres, 393, heirs.
 Ayenst, 267, against.
 Ayel, 420, *see* Aiell.
 Bailli in fforesterie, 419, the bailiff of the forest.
 Bakstalles, 308, stalls standing in back places, and thus not paying rent to the king.
 Bais, 338, bailiffs.
 Bandis, 102, banding together for an unlawful purpose.
 Barellis, 347, barrels.
 Barris, 425, the bar of the court.
 Barke, 229, bark, used for dying.
 Bataile, 420, to make battle or duel, was to challenge the other party to a combat, in order to prove a cause.
 Baxite's, 209, bakers.
 Bayly, 377, bailiff.
 Bayted, 346, baited. This ordinance directing that no bull's flesh should be dressed unless the bull had been baited, ensured at once a constant supply of victims for this cruel, though popular, amusement, and also the rendering of the meat less tough.
 Beche, 219, beech.
 Bedyng, 377, bidding, or proffering.
 Behoneable, 206, behoveable or profitable: fit or proper.
 Behouffull, 102, desirable.
 Belevyed, 356, be levied, or be raised.
 Beme, 331, a beam over which the cloth was drawn in order to display it.
 Benys, 377, beans.
 Bere hem, 272, carry or demean themselves.
 Be twene, 392, between.
 Biforwarde, 231, *see* Here.
 Billis, 393, bills or pikes carried by the infantry, and later by the watchmen.
 Blocke, 394, obstructions.
 Blodethedis, 393, bloodsheds.
 Bocher, 210, butcher. *P.L.* Bocheris, 210.
 Bodilye Othe, 305, a corporal oath, by kissing or laying the hand on the testament.
 Bore pigge, 336, boar.
 Borde, 337, board or stall.
 Borle, 293, burl, to remove the knots and uneven parts from wool or cloth.
 Boschellis, 377, bushels.
 Botis, 374, boots, or perhaps here meaning leather, injured by bots, which were certain kinds of worms troublesome to horses.

- Botell of haye, 343, a bundle of hay.
 Bouzte, 232, *see* Ouzte.
 Buyltur of wode, 229, dregs of wood.
 Brede for gettys, 402, bread for the visitors to the inn.
 Brede for horsies, 402, a coarse kind of bread was formerly much used for feeding horses; and several of our old writers give receipts for making this food.
 Bruares, 394, brewers.
 Brudtol, 27, 420, pontage, a toll charged for passing over or under a bridge, or duty paid for the reparation of bridges.
 Brynnnyng, 305, burning.
 Bulles fleshe, 346, the flesh of bulls.
 Bultell, 373, bolted or sifted. Bolted bread was made of sifted wheat, mixed with rye.
 Burgeis, 419, burgesses.
 Burgage, 78, tenure proper to cities and towns whereby lands or tenements were held of the king or other lord for a certain yearly rent or payment.
 Burgh, 420, borough.
 Burled, 332, *see* Borle.
 Buikes, 418, bushes.
 Bushes, 222, probably a district so named lying in or near Northampton.
 Buttyng, 287, abutting, or bordering on.
 Byenge, 232, neighbourhood.
 By, 402, buy.
 By hynde, 220, in arrear.
 Calidions, 230, cow's heels or sheep's trotters.
 Calle, 201, Calais. Merchants of the staple of Calais formed an important corporation in the fourteenth century.
 Caluereñ, 230, calves.
 Capite, in, 21, a holding in chief, or immediately from the king.
 Carucate, 6, a very variable quantity of land, being anything from 120 to 180 acres, but the general size was probably 160 acres.
 Cantell, 375, *see* Cautell.
 Carione, 229, carrion.
 Catell, 225, chattel. *Pl.* Catellis, 233.
 Cate, 208, purchase, this was the term used in connection with demanding pre-emption enforceable by heir and lord. From the old French achate.
 Catour⁹, 335, caterer, or one who provides eatables.
 Cautell, 377, an over measure.
 Cambrigge, 374, Cambridge.
 Cavie, 425, cause.
 Chaffar, 391, Chaffer, 378, Chafer, 347, merchandise, or articles offered for sale or exchange.
 Chaffren, 391, sell or exchange.
 Chapman, 230, a merchant.
 Chapmen, petty, 147, small merchants or pedlars.
 Charge giffyng, 397, giving of the charge.
 Chekker, 420, the court of exchequer of the king, in London.
 Chequer, 425, the name of a portion of the Northampton court.
 Cendal, 73, a kind of rich, thin silken stuff, which was highly esteemed.
 Chepyng, 210, market. *Pl.* Chepynges, 416.
 Chesyng, making, 305, making choice of.
 Chiders, 393, scolds.
 Chief of cendal, 73, ten ells of cendal.
 Childwite, 28, this was the penalty exacted for begetting a child on a lord's bondwoman.
 Chircheyerdis, 419, churchyards.
 Cicestf, 421, Chichester.
 Clennes, 230, the wholesomeness.
 Clepid, 231, called or named.
 Collustringium, 318, collistringium, a synonym for pillory. *See* Pylorye.
 Colour, 203, pretence or reason.
 Colytion, 311, collusion.
 Combell, 375, cumble, a full heaped measure.
 Comēnaunt, 228, covenant.
 Comburgeis, 265, fellow burgesses.
 Cōtalte, 287, Comēns, 102, Cōmoun, 223, Cōmun, 422, Cōminū, 391, Cōmynalte, 287, commonalty.
 Comytte, 103, commit.
 Comoned, 303, commented on.
 Comprounshon, 305, Comprēmyllyon, 329, consent.
 Compleyno^r, 302, complainant.
 Comyng, 299, common.
 Cōmyns, 287, the commons of the parliament.
 Connyng, 393, knowledge.
 Coneynes, 210, frauds.
 Conuenable, 227, fitting.

- Contectes, 268, contentions or contests.
 Conuycte, 272, convicted.
 Conventicles, 353, conventicles or assemblies.
 Contrybutarye, 353, contributory.
 Conceyvyd, 343, apprehended.
 Conceyng, 416, concealing.
 Concent, 425, consent.
 Conably, 266, conveniently.
 Coueyne, 228, fraud or deceit.
 Confeyleple, 231, counseleth.
 Conyng, 266, skilful or clever.
 Cookys, 312, cooks.
 Cordulean leather, 42, Cordevan leather was prepared at Cordova, in Spain. The word is frequently used by the old dramatists.
 Cordyner, 374, shoemaker.
 Cornette, 374, conical papers for holding spices.
 Cornysers craft, 245, cordwainer's or shoemaker's craft.
 Coryed, 374, is curried, or perhaps is carried.
 Corrody, 6, an allowance for procuring meat, drink, and clothing, or in lieu thereof the materials themselves.
 Corye, 348, curry.
 Coryed, 348, curried.
 Coriour, 349, currier.
 Collages, 215, charges or outlay.
 Cō'uacōn, 338, conservation.
 Cot'ry, 228, contrary.
 Councable, 228, Couenable, 420, suitable or agreeable.
 Couper, 375, cooper.
 Couerlet, 60, a small cover, being the name of a worsted cloth.
 Crafty man, 349, craftsman, or skilled workman or tradesman.
 Creauntour, 234, Creauntor, 233, creditor.
 Crie, 234, see Hu.
 Croune, 392, crown.
 Crouner, 392, coroner. *Pl.* crowners, 339.
 Cukkyng stole, 345, a cucking or ducking stool was a wooden engine, wherein the offender was secured, and then lowered into a river or pond.
 There is no cucking stool now in existence in this county.
 Cuntre, 419, the inhabitants of the country, who were raised to follow the hue and cry.
 Cuppe choppet, 373, a cup or measure that is cut down in order that it shall hold less.
 Curtailly of Ingland, 208, 217, by the courtesy of England, a man who married a woman possessor of land of inheritance by whom he has had a living child capable of inheriting the land shall keep the land for his life after the death of his wife.
 Dagouns, 397, dagons or blankets.
 Dampne, 424, condemn, or mutilate.
 Darrer, 376, dearer.
 Default, 356, defaults.
 Defayled, 420, failed.
 Defentable, 227, able to defend himself.
 Deiter, 210, dyers.
 Demeanours, 425, conduct.
 Demed, 373, judged. From the Aeg-Saxon.
 Demene as of freehold, 287, detinue as of freehold.
 Demenyng, 102, ruling.
 Departed, 271, divided or parted.
 Dempuyte, 339, judgment or condemnation.
 Deneyn, 236, denizen or one purchasing the franchise of the town.
 Deptyn, 221, by retail or in parcels.
 Deptyng, 417, between, or the border line.
 Deris ledder, 348, deer skin.
 Derthe, derthen, 224, derillon 224, make scarce, and therefore dear.
 Derthyng, 227, making dear.
 Deil⁹, 333, dozen.
 Detryment, 427, detriment.
 Dever, 270, endeavour.
 Devoires, 207, devoure, 394, dies.
 Dewe, 376, due or proper.
 di, 332, half.
 Diffame, 272, diffauneth, 303, detime or slander.
 Dight, deyne, 311, dress or prepare.
 Dikes, 418, ditches.
 Dissencions, 101, dissensions.
 Diserte, 206, deceit.
 Diselaunder, 272, diselaundre, 285, diselaundreth, 303, slander.
 Discordes, 101, discords.
 Ditherintofoun, 219, dismembering.
 Dilate, 304, desolate.
 Dilpended, 209, expended.

- Disposonement**, 236, **disponament**, 391, dispossession.
Disreſonner, 420, justify.
Distryuen, 232, destroy.
Dome, 373, *see* Holy.
Don, 219, cause.
Dower, 208, 215, the portion which a widow has for her life after her husband's death of the lands or tenements of which he was solely seized, and which any possible child of hers could inherit.
Dowen, 215, endow or give dower to.
Draden, 416, dreaded.
Draparry, 397, drapery.
Drap, 349, draper.
Drawen, 421, serve.
Duced, 299, due.
Duel, 27, *see* Bataile.
Dunoliū, 423, Darham.
Dufayn, 210, **duſayne** 226, the decennary or tithing.
Duleyner, 226, doziner or decimer, was one who had the oversight of the Friburgh, or Tithing, and was responsible for the maintenance of the king's peace.
Duufayn, 392, *see* Denzeyn.
Dyght, 311, dress or prepare.
Dykekyng, 209, ditches.
Dymyſſed, 427, dismissed.
Dyvine ſervice, 393, divine service.
Duzyng, 229, dying.

Ebbe, 398, an ebb or falling tide.
Eſecked, 311, affected.
Eleccions, 102, elections.
Ellys, 358, else.
Elne, 229, ell, equal to 1½ yards.
Emporeth, 377, impoverisheth.
Embraceries, 203, embraceries were attempts to corruptly influence a jury or prevent the course of justice.
Embateled, 303, embezzled or stolen.
Enabeled, 303, made capable, or certified.
Encheſoned, 418, chastened or punished.
Encreceignyng, 203, increase.
Ende, at, 293, termination of the matter in difference.
Endentures, 216, indentures, are a species of deeds.
Enditen, 416 indict, or charge.
Enqueſtes, 416, inquests.
Enplede, 226, implede, or bring a suit against.

Enprented, 306, engraved.
Enſweren, 417, answer, or be liable for.
Enſealed, 373, sealed, or stamped.
Enſemble, 356, assemble.
Enſerche, 207, search.
Enuiron, 232, the places round.
Enveled, 373, in calf.
Enqueraunce, 393, inquiry.
Erneſt, 210, money paid to bind the contract.
Erytage, 208, inheritance.
Escheator, 77, the officer who observed and certified the king's escheats, or lands, or other profits coming to the king by way of forfeiture or failure of heirs. *Pl.* Eschetoures, 423.
Essoiners, 241, persons who excused themselves from attending a summons, or prosecuting a suit, or attending a court.
Eschewyng, 304, eschewing.
Eſſoyne, 236, *see* Afoynes.
Eſtalyng, 265, everlasting.
Euyche, 202, euychone, 396, every-one.
Evell, 374, badly.
Ev^o, 102, ever.
Evyll rule, 394, evil rule.
Execucion, 423, execution.
Expeditating, 53, expeditating dogs, was removing the balls of their forefeet, in order to prevent them from running game.
Eyſ, ey, 233, higher.
Eyren, 225, eggs.
Eyre, 208, 146, Justices in Eyre, those who in ancient times were commissioned to hear the pleas of the crown in divers places *Pl.* Eyres, 391.

fface, 374, tanning, or liquor.
Fadir, 391, father.
Faggis, 303, bundles.
Falce, 374, false.
Farm, 8, rent, or returns.
Fatte, ſyde, 352, side of the vat.
ffawty, 396, faulty.
ffellowſhip, 336, fellowship or craft.
Feffed, 232, enfeoffed, or possessed.
ffelles, 209, skins.
ffeloun, 398, felon.
Farmed, 422, farmed, or paid rent for.
Feoffermours, 309, ſtermour, 287, farmers, or those who paid rent.

- ferrours.** 375. ironworkers, or black-smiths.
fested. 424. festered.
Fete. 345. fest.
feyres. 416. fairs.
Flaye. 270. a slay, or instrument belonging to a weaver's loom.
Flecher. 353. flesher or butcher. *Pl.* flechewers.
flethhis. 414. flesh.
Flouryng. 203. flourishing.
floteys. 378. possibly this was a term for water.
floffet. 375. forfeit.
Forenne. 392. foreign person, or one coming from the country or another town. *Pl.* Foreynes. 422.
Foreyn chef. 417. franchise.
Foreyn holdynges. 421. out holdings, or lands and tenements not within the town.
Forfeytur. 422. punishment by fine or forfeiture.
Forncloued. 218. closed.
Forn don. 232. miscone.
For swere. 389. forswear or abjure.
Forestallers. 70. florstallers. 376. those who bought any merchandise as it was coming to a market or fair, with intent to sell the same again at a higher price.
Fortail. 346. buy as a forestaller.
For iworne. 339. forsworn, or perjured.
Forty daies. 217. the time of quarantine.
Forto leyne. 215. for to say.
ffrays. 397. affray, a skirmish or fighting between two or more. *Pl.* ffraies. 393.
Franke mariage. 217. was where a man seized of lands in fee simple gave them with his daughter, &c., to another in marriage, to be held by them and their heirs free of any service till the fourth degree of consanguinity was passed.
Fraternyte of the trynnyte. 332. Fraternity of the Trinity. Possibly the chapel of the Trinity at Kingsthorpe.
F^ounchefis. 338. privileges.
Fraunc. 350. France.
Fremes. 274. strangers.
Fre oure. prechers, 330, the Dominicans or Black Friars. *See* Vol. II., p. 521.
ffresh fors. 211, fresh force. Where one man dispossessed another of property the dispossessed could by a speedy remedy be restored to possession again, leaving the right to be tried afterwards.
ffreston, freston. 219, freestone.
fullericrofte. 291. the fuller's craft. *See* Vol. II., p. 288.
Fulliche. 228. fullyk. 264. fully.
Fynden. 215. fyde. 305. find.
ffytene. 274. fifteen.
ffeyre. 222. fairs.
Fyrmall. 313. firm, or perhaps formal.
Gaderer. 337. gatherer, or purchaser.
Gaderyng. 231. addition.
Gayne. 394. convenient, or fit.
Garbeled. 348. examined, or picked over; a garbeller was one appointed to examine spices and find out the impurities in them.
Gaskoyn. 377. Gascony.
Gawged. 347. gauged.
Gentille. 207. gentlemen.
Gerners. 211. hoards, or garners.
Gneryng. 231. garnering, or hoarding.
Getys ledder. 348. goat skin.
Giftes. 217. dispositions.
Gleffis. 393. knives.
Gobbet. 373. morsels, or small piece.
Gote. 230. goat.
Gogter. 221. gutter.
Gounaunce. 332. gounaunce, 13. government.
Goyth. 346. price, rate, or cost.
Gree. 417. agreement or settlement.
Gestys. 402. guests.
Grenollycke. 232. grievously.
Grete. 210, 229. grievance.
Grevene. 220. grieve.
Greywerk. 60. badger skin.
Gruchyng. 270. grudging.
Greyns. 394. grains.
Grutte. 229. dregs.
Guynjeyn. 417. quinzain or fifteen day, being a fortnight.
Gyldwite. 420. *see* Childwite.
Gynnes. 378. machines for catching fish.
Gyfarnyes. 418. gisarnes; these were bills or battle axes.
Hable. 207. able or strong.
Habundaunt. 202. abundant.

- Haburion**, 418, habergeon, a coat of mail, or breast plate.
Habylyte, 292, sufficiency.
Halfendeth, 428, half-part.
Halpe, 231, helpeth, or assisteth.
Halydome, 225, holy dome, or final judgment. From the Anglo-Saxon Halig dom. Also our blessed Lady, from Halig dame.
Hanaper, 71, the king's private treasury, which was kept by the clerk of the hanaper, whose duty it was to receive moneys due to the king for charters, letters, &c.
Handild, 354, handled, or used.
Happ, 103, happen.
Harbernyh, 210, harboureth.
Harneys, 234, armour.
Harren, 222, are.
Haunted, 203, practised.
Hatte of jren, 418, helmet.
Haunte, 230, use, or frequent.
Havenes, 420, havens.
Haveour, 101, behaviour.
Hedertowarde, 422, hitherto.
Hedde, 345, head. *Pl.* **Hedey**, 347, hedys, 230.
Hedynesse, 102, head-strong ways or conduct.
Hees, 341, lees, or lose.
Hegges, 221, 418, hedges.
Heir, 351, higher. *See* Eyf.
Hem mown, 420, they may.
Hepe, 377, heap.
Her, used throughout the *Liber* quite indiscriminately for he, she, him, her, his, hers or theirs.
Herberged, 220, let out to occupants or tenants. From the Teutonic Herberge.
Herburgh, 230, herberow, 417, harbour or lodge.
Herberiouir, 402, lodging-house keeper. *Pl.* **Herborowes**, 393, herbiours, 402.
Here biforwarde, 231, henceforward.
Heresgive, 28, the meaning of this word is not certainly known, but it was probably a compulsory new year's gift to the sovereign.
Herkeners under mennys wyn-dows, 393, eaves droppers.
Hes, 418, case.
High pace, 308, high place.
Hilliers, 329, thatchers or tilers. A hillier is one who conceals or covers.
Hobles, 102, hobbles or difficulties.
Hole toun, 417, an entire township that was not a city or borough.
Hollyche, 234, wholly.
Holiome, 373, wholesome.
Hole, 269, complete.
Holl, 232, together.
Holy dome, 373, *see* Halydome.
Homeiokyns, 393, breakings of home-soken, or invading the freedom every man has in his own house.
Honde, 348, hond, 421, hand. *Pl.* **Hondes**, 227.
Honthes, 418, hue and cry.
Honeable, 206, fit. *See* Behoneable, 206.
Horne blowe, 397, horns blown to summon assistance.
Hornes, 348, probably measures made of horn.
Houndez ledder, 348, dog skin.
Hortebred, 334, *see* Brede for horses.
Horie ledder, 348, horse hide.
Hofuller, 402, host, or inn-keeper.
Hofellage, 27, the compelling of any innkeeper, tenant, or other person, without payment, to lodge or entertain another.
Hu and crie, 234, the old common law process of pursuing with horn and voice all felons. Here used only to give public notice of an interference with a freehold.
Hundreddes, 416, hundreds.
Husteng, 420, hustings, 27, the local court held before the reeve or mayor of the town.
Hustis, 231, probably usages.
Hutwifes cloth, 147, household stuff, such as house linen.
Huxier, 209, a retail dealer, who generally carried his wares on his back.
Hydirmuke, 225, perhaps meaning behind, or out of the market.
Hydynges, 225, hidden, or covered places.
Hye weyes, 418, high roads.
Hyllyars, 354, *see* Hilliers.
Hýren, 210, hire.
Ilke, 417, each.
Ilke mene, 211, same mesne or mesuage.
Impiail, 220, imperial.
Indifferently ministred, 203, fairly or impartially administered.
Inconueniency, 304, inconveniencies.

- Indecrece, 270, in decrease.
 Indifferent, 392, equal, or impartial.
 Ineny, 427, in any.
 Infangthef, 47, the liberty granted to the lord of a manor to judge thieves taken within his manor.
 Inhtauntz, 102, inhabitants.
 Intromit, 78, intromytte, 425, intrude.
 Intestate, 47, without having made a will.
 Inteyn teryng, 204, in teyntering or stretching. *See* Teyntor.
 Intrusion, 234, intrusion, almost the same as "abatement" (which see), but an intrusion is to the prejudice of one who takes in remainder or reversion.
 Inwarde, 375, secretly.
 Inwardz, 345. Inwardis, 335, internal portions.
- Jo'neyman, 270, one working by the day with another. From the French *Journée*. *Pf* *Jorneymen*.
 Justifiable, 391, conformable to justice; or, perhaps, giving no cause of offence.
 J solde, 375, the j or i is simply an augment to the word sold.
 Jd, 377, one penny.
 Jmplede, 341, *see* Enplede.
 Indented, 265, the writing was in duplicate on one piece of paper or parchment cut between the two in an indented line, so that the two could be identified.
 Infangenthesf, 421, *see* Infangthef.
 Infynytly, 314, perpetually.
 Jnioye, 341, enjoy.
 Joberty, 354, jeopardy or peril.
 Justic, 423, justices.
- Karye, 310, carry.
 Kate, 213, *see* Cate.
 Kingsbroth, 62, the king's booth, a booth erected in fair time for the use of the king's representative.
 Knyfe, 418, knife, or sword.
 Knyzte, 227, knight.
 Konnyng, 392, *see* Connyng.
 Kutting, 374, cutting.
 Kylderkin, 374, kilderkin.
 Kyne, 214, kyng, kynne, 215, kin.
 Kynred, 373, blood relationship.
 Kynges maresshall, 420, the king's officer. *See* Livery.
- Kytestallis, 395, perhaps king's stalls.
- Ladde, 422, conducted.
 Lady lighte, 299, the light of our Lady, or the Virgin Mary.
 Laffe, 418, less.
 Lastage, 27, lastage, 42, a duty paid for ware sold by the last, as herrings, pitch, &c.
 Latten, 224, let.
 Latyng, 203, letting.
 Lawing, 53, *see* Expeditating.
 Lay to wed, 208, 218, put to pledge or mortgage.
 Ledder, 348, leather.
 Lede, 227, carry or drive.
 Leeful, 103, lawful.
 Lees, 350, leys, 351, lose.
 Leide, 231, laid.
 Lenger, 397, longer.
 Lenton, 308, Lent.
 Lesen, 228, loose.
 Lres, 206, letters.
 Lett, 393, 397, delay.
 Lette, 291, letton, 220, hinder.
 Lettis, 354, leetis, 393, courts leet.
 Leseyn, 422, lose.
 Lettis for Scottis, 344, *see* Scottis.
 Leue, 210, loan.
 Levewe, 395, levy.
 Lewde, 425, lewd.
 Leyum, 422, Lezan.
 Leys, 351, lose.
 Li, 291, pounds. From the Latin *Libra*.
 Libte, 270, liberty.
 Liefull, 308, lawful.
 Lightis, 335, lights.
 Liker, 217, like.
 Livery of the marshall, 27, by authority of the marshal, an officer of the royal household whose duty it was to provide lodgings for the sovereign and his retinue.
 Lofe, 394, love.
 Lomes, 299, looms.
 Lone, 227, advance, or loan.
 Longis, 335, lungs.
 Lorn, 232, lost. From the German "verloren."
 Loot and Scotte, 220, lott and skot, 353, those holding at Lot and Scot were those who paid certain general contributions.
 Lordie Dakers, 354, Lord Dacre.

- Lovyng, 377, enhancing.
 Luker, 377, pecuniary gain.
 Lombard, 231, used here for a banker, or producer of coins. This word was derived from Lombardy, whence the early Italian bankers came.
 Lymme, 373, limb.
 Lybtees, 265, libties, 338, liberties.
 Lyffe, 373, life.
 Lynyn, 348, linen.
 Lyfte, 358, please.
 Lyter, 222, a litter or brood of young animals.
 Lyuey, 273, privilege, also livery or uniform. *Pl.* Lyvereys, 265.
 Lyte, 271, the light.

 Maliffyth, 354, maligneth.
 Man⁹, 102, manner.
 Manslawhters, 416, manslaughters.
 Manucaptors, 87, those who were sureties, for the appearance of one accused, on his being delivered into their custody, instead of his remaining in prison.
 Mark, 8, a coin worth thirteen shillings and fourpence.
 M^rtir, 305, martyr.
 M^d, 423, memorandum.
 Meane, 310, meayn, 354, way or ~~meane~~.
 Mede, 207, reward.
 Medefully, 266, deservedly.
 Melynn, 219, a species of scapolite, being a cheap kind of stone.
 Market, 425, market. *Pl.* Mercatis, 424.
 Meiel hogges, 373, a measel was a leper. The term is here used for diseased or measly hogs.
 Mesurys, 345 measures.
 Menufyng, 269, diminishing.
 Mercymment, 266, fine. *See* Amerceament. *Pl.* Mercymmentis, 274.
 Merueled, 303, marvelled. From the Anglo-Norman.
 Mese, 287, message.
 Ministers, 26, servants.
 Miskennyng, 27, a mistake in the plea, for which a fine had to be paid.
 Misbehavyngge, 425, misbehaviours.
 Moneyers, 13, the officials of the king who had charge of the mint.
 Moyte, 428, moiety.
 Monysshed, 221, admonished.
 Morte, 336, dead.

 Moun not, 220, nor may.
 Muckhille, 394, heaps of manure.
 Murtheryng, 418, murder.
 Mydis, 287, middle.
 Myll horfe, 222, the horse kept to work a mill.
 Myllyng, 294, milling.
 Mynyfters, 353, servants.
 Myskenning, 229, *see* Miskennyng.
 Mys rule, 268, misrule.

 Nat, 423, not.
 Nekkys, 358, necks, or risk.
 Nete, 230, cattle of the bovine species.
 Netez ledder, 348, bovine leather.
 Nightis tyme, 398, night time.
 Norices, 209, nurses. Perhaps here the word means apprentices.
 Not paied, 233, nought be paid.
 Nouyt, 416, naught, or never.
 Noyetauce, 209, annoyance, or nuisance.
 Noyted, 271, rumoured.
 Nuber, 350, number.
 Nyght walkers, 393, those wandering about at night with evil designs.

 Ob, 226, one half-penny.
 Obediens, 352, obefauns, 352, obedient.
 Occupy, 375, use.
 Octaues, 423, the eighth day after the feast.
 On questis, 274, on inquests or enquiries.
 On, 221, oon, 287, one.
 Onlyche, 229, oonly, 423, only.
 Ony, 307, any.
 On seafoned, 373, unseasoned.
 Oonas, 265, one as.
 Oost, Ofte, 230, host, or landlord.
 Ootes, 374, oats.
 Or, 331, before.
 Ordeigned, 402, ordained.
 Ordeyne, 311, order.
 Os, 227, as.
 Ossellum, 320, pile.
 Oftry, 374, ostery, 358, hostelry.
 Othes, 416, oaths.
 Op⁹, 307, oper, 223, other.
 Other, 227, another.
 Oth, 214, oath.
 Otemele, 347, oatmeal.
 Og, 331, over.
 Ou fee, 356, oversee or superintend.

- Outaken, 224, overtaken, or found out.
 Oū werkis, 206, our works.
 Ouzte bouzte, 232, aught bought.
 Oute take, 420, owte take, 219, except.
 Owith, 402, ought.
 Owre, 376, hour.
 Owpenle, 335, openly.
 Owte, 343, ought.
 Owte boron, 232, aught borne.
 Owte crye, 397, outcry.
 Owte warde, 375, openly.

 Pchemyn, 229, parchment.
 Pcialite, 207, partiality.
 Palfrey, 234, a saddle horse.
 Panis dominicus, 321, simnel bread of the finest flour, so called from the effigy of our Saviour impressed thereon.
 Panis franciscus, 321, French bread or rolls.
 Parell, 397, peril.
 Paich, 269, Easter.
 Patent letters, 421 open letters or writings.
 Pawment, 335, pavement.
 Peas, 218, pease, 213, peace.
 Peltis, 222, peltis, 229, skins.
 Penny, 274, penny, 228, a penny, or token. *Pl.* Penys, 210, penyes, 230.
 Pepull, 305, people.
 Pel, 203, pell, 313, peril. *Pl.* Perils, 269.
 Pilous, 373, perilous.
 P^olle, 351, price.
 Piichyng, 373, perishing.
 Piurde, piurie, 339, perjury.
 P^ojudice, 308, prejudice.
 Pmyt, 428, permit.
 P^opetuall, 424, perpetuity.
 Ppetually, 423, perpetually.
 Pion, 233, person. *Pl.* Piones, 102.
 Perionnes reitiant, 203, resident persons.
 P^oluacion, 338, settled opinion.
 Peien, 223, peiyn, 377, peas.
 Payne, 417, penalty.
 Peyes, 312, pies.
 Pie Powder, Court of, 134, 146, a court held in the market where those who came with "dusty feet" could obtain immediate justice.
 Pleas of out holdings, 26, pleas concerning lands or tenements lying outside the borough.
 Plees, 214, 394, courts.
 Pleese, 392, pleas.
 Plete, 270, implead.
 Pleynen, 226, complain.
 Pleyneth, 226, complaineth.
 Pleyne courte, 215, open court, or perhaps full court.
 Pleyn plees, 216, pleen pleez, 220, open or full court.
 Pleyn, 356, full.
 Pleynt, 228, complaint.
 Pleyntye, 392, plaintiff.
 Pockey, 336, distempered.
 Podell, 418, puddle or pool.
 Poeer, 417, poorer.
 Politick, 102, civil or good mannered.
 Ponyfhe, 265, punish.
 Portefoken, 27, 420, the liberties of the town outside the walls.
 Porters, 231, measures, probably the length of the white rod borne by certain officials, called porters.
 Poryng in, 376, impoverishing.
 Poyntes, 394, points.
 P^ocyncte, 429, presynke, 379, precinct.
 P^ojudice, 427, prejudice.
 P^omisses, 203, offences before written.
 P^osernacōn, 202, preservation.
 P^osident, 204, precedent.
 Prestre, 207, earnest money given to a soldier when he was impressed.
 P^ofume, 427, presume.
 Prevely, 376, secretly.
 Prime, 209, pryme, 225, p^ome, 228, the hour of six o'clock in the morning, being the second of the seven canonical hours.
 P^ours, 421, priors.
 Pritid, 427, comprised.
 P^oue, 211, a townsman, or person of the neighbourhood. *Pl.* p^ouez, 209.
 P^oyte, 270, p^oyte, 225, profit.
 P^ogenitours, 423, p^ogenytors, 265, progenitors, or ancestors.
 Ppur, 266, own.
 Ppur and singlar, 308, own and singlar.
 Ppre heritage, 217, own inheritance.
 Profe, 429, pve, 304, 333, proof.

- Puandyr**, 346, provender.
Puosterie, 421, provostery or provostship.
Pven, 234, proved.
Pu, 393, you.
Pullett, 376, a pullet or young hen.
Punition, 203, punishment.
Punych, 395, punish.
Purchase, 209, process or action.
Purchased, 213, pursued.
Purchases, 213, this probably means the absolute purchase of the various charters by the town.
Purpresture, 23, a building or inclosure made to the prejudice of the king.
Pursue his fee ageyns, 233, hold his fee directly from.
Purviaunce, 225, provision.
Putred, 374, putrid.
Putto, 267, put to, or actually placed on the writing itself.
Putto, 397, put to or placed to sale.
Pursute, 417, jurisdiction.
Pvte, 394, put.
Pylory, 373, an engine made of wood to confine the head, and sometimes the hands, of an offender, and thus expose him to public view. There is no existing pillory in this county, though its use is frequently referred to in old local records.
Pypes, 375, pipes.

Q^d, 375, a farthing.
Quatage, 299, quarterly due; the payment was, however, only made yearly at Easter, so probably quarterage signified a payment irrespective of date. *Pl.* **Quartages**, 266.
Queme, 269, satisfy.
Queyntise, 232 ingenious means.
Quest, 287 inquiry.
Questis, 274, suits.
Quietance, 423, quittance.
Quyte, 225, quit, or free, or released.

Ranced leddur, 374, musty leather.
Rasor, 375, rasid, 377, razed, measures razed or levelled.
Rawe ledder, badly tanned leather.
Ray, 231, a kind of striped cloth. *Pl.*
Rayes, 229.
Rechafe, 375, re-cook, or warm a second time.

Recorfe, 308, recourse.
Recvueron, 214, recover.
Recytors, 416, receivers of the misdoers.
Reeve, 27, the most important officer in the town, who presided at the court of hustings, and collected the king's dues.
Regrater, 228, regratour, 376, one who bought in order to sell again in the same market, fair, or place. *Pl.*
Regrateris, 210.
Reignyng, 305, reigning, or common.
Reife, 424, raise.
Rejoise, 235, enjoy.
Rekkeleichepe, 416, recklessness.
Relacion, 396, relation or rehearsal.
Relacon, 355, complaint.
Reles, 225, release.
Renne, 203, run.
Rere, 228, raise, or take.
Rered, 270, raised.
Relacion, 396, recital.
Rennyth, 339, runneth.
Replenished, 215, redeemed or repleved.
Repacion, reparacion, 287, reparation.
Reffeyted, 224, received.
Reffeyneth, 417, receiveth.
Resonabliche, 209, reasonably.
Reue, 420, *see* Reeve.
Rewe, 224, row.
Right willy, 421, righteously.
Roberys, 418, robberies.
Roby Whoode Court, 354, Robin Hood's court, a common term for an unjust court, or one presided over by a robber.
Rode, 270, rood, a cross, or crucifix.
Rongen, 209, rung.
Rotyn, 424, rotten.
Royotouse, 313, riotous.
Runnen, right over, 417, a due in arrears.

Sadde, 102, serious.
Sadnes, 101, seriousness.
Soc, 4, right, liberty, privilege, or dominion.
Socage, 78, tenure of lands by any certain and determinate service.
Sadill, 377 saddle.
Sad rule, 203, serious, or discrete rule.
Sofferen, 209, suffer.

- Salett, 418, a light helmet.
 Saye, 232, assay.
 Sayne, 219. *see* With.
 Sa3, 421, Salisbury.
 Schone, 374, shoes.
 Schlauder, 375, slander.
 Scotale, 28. When any officer of the forest keeps an alehouse within the forest, by colour of his office, and causes men to come to his house, and there spend their money for fear of his displeasure, it is called Sootale. The word is used in the charter of the forest.
 Sctaliers, 329, sklaters, 354, slaters.
 Scotte, 220. *see* Loot.
 Scottis, lettis for, 354, this probably alludes to the king's Scottish levies, for during the reign of Henry VIII. the wars in Scotland were proceeding.
 Seefyng, 235, seisin, or possession.
 Sealed yn, 347, fastened up.
 Sealed, 345, sealed or stamped.
 Sellynges, 221, fine or alienation.
 Sendry, 103, different.
 S^ount, 266, sergeant.
 S^ouaunt, 270, servant *Pl* S^ountis, 336, S^ount, 334.
 S^ochere, 350, seacher. *Pl* serchers, 305.
 S^oiaunt, 227, sergeant.
 S^ouice, 219, service.
 S^oteyn, 221, certain, or fixed.
 Seyfone, 215, seizen.
 Semble, 220, assembly.
 Sette, 345, put in good condition.
 Seu^oauce, 273, severance, or difference.
 Sewe, 335, sue.
 Sewen, 418, follow.
 Seyn, 220, *see* With.
 Seyne, 210, say, or tell.
 Shamellis, 424, shambles.
 Shepis ledder, 348, sheep skins.
 Sheryng, 356, shearing, or cutting.
 Shete, 375, shut.
 Sherman, 356, a shearer of cloth. *See* Vol. II., p. 288.
 Shermanieraft, 356, cloth shearer's craft.
 Sherreues, 419, shreviffe, 423, sheriffs.
 Shitte, 417, shut.
 Sholn, 420, shall.
 Shouis payre, 374, pair of shoes.
 Sight, 419, view.
 Sigmanuell, 428, the marks or signatures made by the mayor and his brethren with their own hands.
 Siker, 217, otherwise; semble from same root as scindu, scipers, scythe, and suggesting separation or diversity. It may mean sure, and be a mere pleonasm, or it may mean that there may be security or safety. *See* Sikernefs, p. 233.
 Silue, 216, silver.
 Siluer, 215, silver, being the purchase money.
 Sikerneffe, 233, security.
 Sith, 274, then.
 Sithe, 265, since.
 Simnel bread, 321, a kind of rich cake generally made in a three-cornered form.
 Sklaters, 354, slaters.
 Skot, 353, scot, an assessment to a contribution.
 Slec, 335, slay.
 Slownes, 416, sloth.
 Soche, 393, such.
 Sodeynly, 417, suddenly.
 Sodeyndeth, 392, sudden death.
 Solaunder, 265, discredit.
 Somoins, 421, summons.
 Soday dyners, 393, Sunday diners.
 Sotelte, 377, sotiltie, 310, subtilty.
 Sethyng, 346, boiling.
 Sothe, 210, sotheneffe, 229, truthfully, or plainly.
 Sope, 347, soap.
 Sowgt, 354, sought.
 Speally, 202, especially.
 Spial, 204, special.
 Spialite, 203, particulars.
 Spual, 102, spiritual.
 Spuell, 287, spiritual.
 Spurge, 347, clarify.
 Spere, 418, spear.
 Stallage, 209, rent paid for stalls.
 Stavis, 393, staves.
 Stede, 273, place *Pl* Stedis, 209.
 Stente, 231, stand.
 Stlinge, 426, current money. From the word Easterlings, being the name of those people in the east parts of Germany who were skilled in bring gold and silver.
 Stiward, 377, steward (of the town).
 Stywarde, 375, the king's steward of the household, formerly an important officer.

- Stokefish**, 308, salt fish.
Stokkes, 209, wooden posts.
Stokkes, 346, stocks, a wooden engine, used to confine the legs of offenders, for the securing of disorderly persons; and also for punishment under divers statutes.
 Stocks still exist at the following villages in this county:—Apethorpe, Eydon, Gretton, King's Sutton, Little Houghton, and Wicken.
Stones, 348, probably this means actual stones, and not weights of fourteen pounds.
Straunge, 209, country folk, or folk from other towns.
Stynkkyng, 229, offensive.
Stylly, 398, quietly.
Stynten, 417, be free.
Subbarbys, 266, suburbs.
Subv'cion, 102, subversion.
Suerte, 298, surety.
Suer warde, 203, sure keeping, or gaol.
Suffemy fleish, 230, sufmy, 230, flesh corrupted with blood or matter.
Sufferen in wife, 407, suffer in such manner.
Sumpter horses, 6, a horse for carrying furniture or other articles.
Surceffe, 202, refrain from.
Surmettyng, 271, surmyttyng, 303, complaint or charge.
Sufimy, 336, *see* Suffemy.
Suspecioufe, 398, suspicious.
Suyng, 265, following.
Swelewe, 221, sewer, or drain, or chimney.
Swte, 234, suit.
Sword, swirde, 418, sword. *Pl.*
 Swyrdes, 418, swyrdis, 393.
Syche, 417, such.
Synes, 378, signs.
Syffe, 393, assize.
Syfed, 345, assized.

Tachementis, 393, persons or things attached, or in custody.
Tale, 333, reckoning.
Tannhillis, 396, tan hills.
Tapefter, 222, a maker of tapestry, here used for a working man generally.
Tawe, 349, to curry, dress, or make supple.
Tellagies, 353, tallages or assessments.

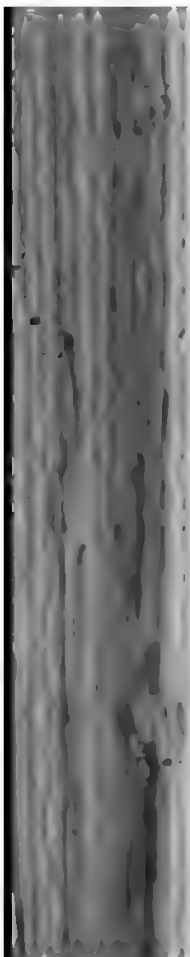
Tempall, 102, temporal.
Teñt, 287, tenement. *Pl.* Teñtis.
Terme, 220, term of years, or a lease.
T^ome, 233, time.
Testate, 47, testat, 422, having made a will.
Teyntor, 332, a taintor was a fixed stretcher used by fullers for stretching cloth. *Pl.* Teyntoris, 332. *See* Vol. II., p. 218.
Thā, 215, than.
Thabbot, 302, the abbot.
Thaduis, 207, thadvyse, 102, the advice.
Thassent, 425, the assent.
Thenhabitaunt, 306, the inhabitants.
Thorow, thorou, 419, through.
Thretyth, 354, threateneth.
Thorough, 228, by.
Thrummys, 348, thrums, extremities of the weaver's warp.
Thyrndall, 373, thinned down.
Till, 398, to.
Tobes, 394, tubs.
Toll, 27, tolle, 42, sum paid for passing over roads or bridges, entering certain boroughs, or exposing wares for sale.
Tolle dissh, 375, a dish used by a miller for taking a certain amount of the corn ground by him as payment.
Tombrell, 373, *see* Cukking stool.
Torchis, 305, torches.
Torchette, 305, little torches.
Tonne, 343, ton.
Tounes chepyng, 418, market towns.
Travell, 231, work.
Trefoure, 392, treasure trove.
Treten, 421, treat, or use.
Trewe, 348, *see* Beme.
Treyte, 325, probably fine wheaten flour.
Tronage, 210, the right of weighing goods.
Troned, 226, weighed.
Troner, 226, the officer responsible for weighing goods.
Tweyn, 298, tweyne, 421, two.
Tymbra, 329, a certain number of skins, forming a bundle.
Tyng, 305, *see* Vnfit tyng.
Tyngtuſ, 229, tincture or colour.
Typlynge howſys, 393, drinking houses.
Typler, 352, the officer appointed to taste the beer, or perhaps the drinker or customer.

- Tytulys of Ryght, 234, documents of title, or title deeds.
 Tyste, 343, tight. Probably meaning a ton closely pressed and packed.
 Utas, 122, the seventh day after the feast.
 Ut sup, 335, as above.
 Valenē, 422, Valence.
 Vayle, 424, advantage. *Pl. Vailes*, 424.
 Verray, 298, verry, 402, very, 423, true.
 Veyne, 221, visne or neighbourhood. See Vernalis inquest. See Vol. II., p. 135.
 Vicious, 424, bad.
 Visuer, 221, Viewer.
 Vnderwode, 418, underwood.
 Vnderuemyng, 229, undermining.
 Vnfit tyng, 305, unfitting.
 Vniuersale, 334, vniuersall, 310, universal.
 Vntestat, 422, intestate, or without leaving a will.
 Voiso, 103, voice, or vote.
 Volour, 375, value.
 Voyde, 232, quit, or depart from.
 Voyden, 222, avoid.
 Vpland, tounes of, 419, probably inland or country towns.
 Vfeed, 423, used.
 Vyrkyn, 347, firkin, a vessel holding eight or nine gallons.
 Vytell, 335, victual.
 Wakeñ, 227, keep watch.
 Waltes, 374, welts.
 Warde, 218, 398, prison or gaol.
 Warkeman, 227, workman.
 Warke in greate, 355, work in quantity, and not by the day.
 Warpe, 397, warp or thread running lengthwise in the loom.
 Water, 345, mix.
 Wase, 353, was.
 Wasten, 232, waste.
 Wastes, 21, see Assarts.
 Wewen, 531, weave.
 Websters, 231, websteris, 211, cloth workers.
 Wedde, 218, mortgage, or pledge. *Pl. weddes*, weddis, 420.
 Weiffe, 397, weave.
 Weivericrafte, 299, weaver's craft.
 Wenyth, 226, weeneth, or thinks.
 Wepenes, 418, weapons.
 Westm, 421, Westminster.
 Wete, 373, witt, 203, wit, or know.
 Wepninge pigge, 341, sucking pigs.
 Weu, 331, weaver. *Pl. Weuez*, 348.
 Weyztis, 375, weights.
 Whete, 374, wheat.
 White, 12, money paid into the king's exchequer was tested by being melted, and it was then said to be blanchet or white. Perhaps here it is only meant, that the payment was in white money or silver, and not in kind, such as grain.
 Whittawer, 349, a currier of white leather.
 Wise awarte, 203, wise administration or government.
 With Sitte, 223, disobey.
 Witte, 391, say.
 Wite ye, 419, know ye.
 With Jne, 423, within.
 W'owtyn, 216, without.
 With feyn, 220, gainsay.
 Witte howe, 228, knows how.
 Wittnesse seid, 233, witnessed.
 Worthi, 422, commendable.
 Wod, 229, wode, 418, wood, a blue dye.
 Wodours, 210, sellers of woad.
 Wole, 397, wool, or thread, crossing the warp in the loom.
 Woke, 417, week.
 Wollen, 348, woollen.
 Worme, 229, perhaps wormwood.
 Worfe ende, 354, wrong end.
 Writ dormond, 353, a writ dormant, was one that was not to be executed for a certain time.
 W'tought, 330, without.
 Wyrche, 271, work.
 Wynnot, 419, will not.
 Wyncheff, 419, Wynton, 423, Winchester.
 Wyntur, 418, winter, meaning a whole year.
 Wynnyng, 223, a payment made to the confederates by the winner. The transaction seems to have been a kind of sub-sale or knock-out.

- Yeffe, 345, give.
 Yere and a day, 208, 213, a year and
 a day.
 Yeta ovir, 343, that over.
 Yeueñ, 202, given.
 Yevyng, 202, giving.
 Yever, 216, giver.
 Yminent, 269, imminent.
 Yoʒneman, 274, *see* Journeyman.
 Youen, 419, given.
 Ynglond, 354, England.
 Yrelande, 350, Ireland.

 ʒates, 225, gates.
 ʒefe, 393, give.
 ʒeldon, 233, yielded.
 ʒere, 419, year.
 ʒereʒene, 420, *see* Heresgive
 ʒenen, 215, 230, ʒoven, 223, ʒuen,
 210, given.
 ʒite, 225, yet.

 þe, 218, the, or that. Anglo Saxon.
 þe beste wyʒe he cane, 235, the best
 way he can
 þoo, 217, those. Anglo Saxon.
 þough, 224, though.
 þt, 421, that.



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